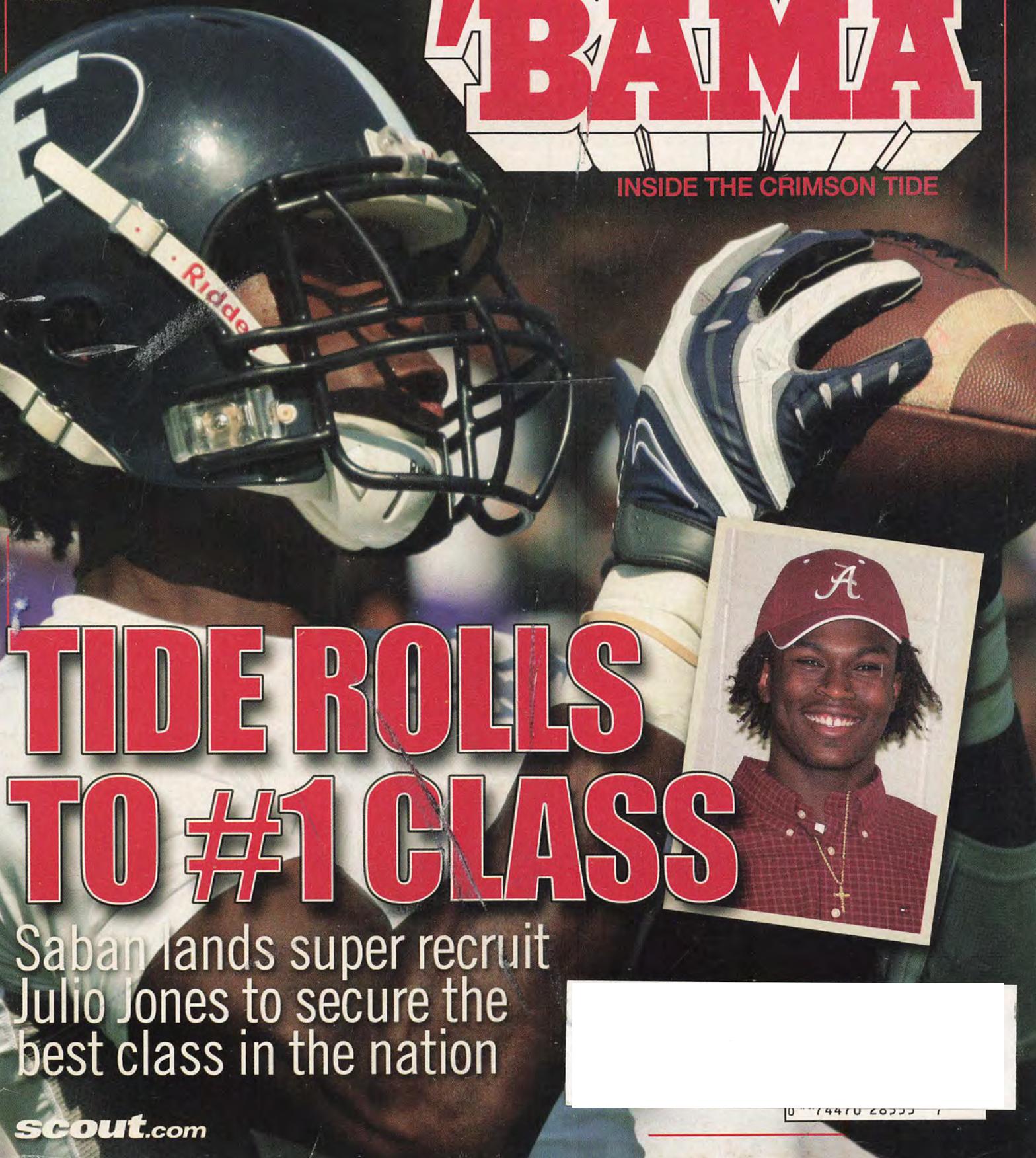


2008 RECRUITING YEARBOOK

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'BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE



TIDE ROLLS TO #1 CLASS

Saban lands super recruit
Julio Jones to secure the
best class in the nation

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Army ROTC



What is Army ROTC

Army ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) is a series of elective courses making up one of the best leadership courses in the country and can be part of your UA experience. The program combines topics in

military science with practical leadership training to prepare men and women to become Army officers. During classes and field training you will quickly build the confidence and self-discipline necessary to succeed in your studies and help prepare you for success after graduation. You will learn how to motivate and lead others, manage complex tasks, and communicate ideas effectively; the same traits prospective employers will be looking for when you graduate. Upon graduation from UA and the Army ROTC program, you will be fully prepared to take charge as a leader. The University of Alabama Army ROTC uses effective classroom and practical "hands-on" training to prepare our highly motivated cadets to receive their commission as a Second Lieutenant (2LT) in the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve, or the Army National Guard.

I am a sophomore, am I still able to take Army ROTC?

Yes. If you think you might be interested in continuing in the Army ROTC program you will need to attend the Leader's Training Course during the summer of 2008.

What is the Leader's Training Course?

The Leader's Training Course (LTC) is a paid 4-week course at Fort Knox, KY (similar to a summer internship) which will give you constructive credit for the semesters of Army ROTC that you have missed, making you eligible to register for the 300 Level Army ROTC class as you begin your junior year.

What are the benefits of Army ROTC?

Participants in the ROTC program develop critical skills in management and leadership, which are valuable to any civilian or military career. Students gain confidence, self-discipline, and technical experience. New lieutenants will enter the workforce as a leader and supervise as many as 45 Soldiers, while being responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of equipment. If you decide to leave the military, civilian employers desire the leadership experience and technical knowledge that you have. Some of these skills and credentials include.

- Effective leadership and management skills
- Accomplished oral and written communications skills
- Superior problem-solving skills
- Meticulous organizational skills

- Military service instills substantial value-added qualities:
 - Discipline, Commitment, Loyalty, Resourcefulness, Respect
- It also instills the value of:
 - Teamwork, Diversity, and a drug-free lifestyle

Financial Benefits: There are a number of financial benefits that you can apply for and receive as an ROTC cadet, depending on your eligibility. Contact the Military Science department to find out the eligibility requirements for each of these benefits and which ones may apply to you:

- ROTC Scholarship - Full tuition and mandatory fees plus a \$1200/year book allowance
- CH 30 Montgomery GI Bill - \$900/month (full-time)
- CH 1606 Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill - \$272/month (full-time)
- Montgomery GI Bill Kicker - \$350/month
- Federal Tuition Assistance (USAR only) - 100% tuition, up to \$4500/year
- State Tuition Reimbursement (ARNG only) - 100% tuition, up to \$4500/year
- Drill Pay as E-5 (FY04) - \$247/month
- ROTC Stipend - Freshmen: \$300/month
Sophomore: \$350/month
Junior: \$450/month
Senior: \$500/month

Will ROTC activities affect my class schedule?

Since Army ROTC is a scheduled class within the UA curriculum there are no scheduling conflicts different than you may experience when scheduling your other classes, and there are enough class options to provide relief from most scheduling issues that may arise.

What is the time commitment for ROTC?

The time commitment is similar to most other college classes ... you will have a 1-hour class twice a week and a 2-hour leadership lab once a week. Although you will have homework, the time demands outside of class are not very extensive so you will have time to explore other interests such as intramural sports and clubs.

Do I get to wear a uniform?

Army ROTC cadets are issued uniforms for wear on class and lab days ... the rest of the time you will look like the rest of the students on campus.

Do I have to participate in a physical fitness class?

If you are a scholarship cadet you are required to participate in our Physical Training (PT) 3-times per week. If you are not on scholarship the PT is optional, but you can receive extra credit in the ROTC class by participating. We strongly encourage all of our non-scholarship cadets, especially those that are considering attending the Leader's Training Course during the summer to participate since it helps develop healthy life-style habits and helps prepare you to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT).

Do I have to go into the Army after college?

There is **no** military service obligation for taking the freshman and sophomore Army ROTC class or for attending the Leader's Training Course. If you apply for and accept a scholarship you will incur a military service obligation once you have signed the contract that releases money to you (receiving money from the government for college is what triggers the military service requirement). These classes and/or the Leader's Training Course are a great no-risk way of looking at the Army as a potential career ... or even a jump start to a civilian career after getting a few years of experience after college. If you decide to complete the 300 and 400 Level Army ROTC classes you will receive money for college expenses and therefore have a military service obligation.

What happens when I finish college?

When you graduate from college as an Army ROTC Cadet, you will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and begin your military service as a leader in a very highly respected profession. Your career as an Officer will be just beginning, and you'll find a variety of interesting and exciting career fields (13 to choose from) in the Army.

Sounds great, how do I get started?

That's easy! Just stop by the Military Science Building and talk to the Army ROTC Enrollment Officer, MAJ Calvin Summers, Bureau Of Mines Building, Room 111. If you prefer you can give him a call at 205-348-1056 or send him an e-mail at cjsummers@ua.edu. He will be glad to answer any questions that you have.

STRENGTH TO LEAD AND ACHIEVE!



PAID LEADER TRAINING SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The Army ROTC Leader's Training Course is a paid 4-week summer experience at Fort Knox, KY which will qualify you to enter the Advanced Army ROTC classes. It's 28 days of pure adrenaline, where you will experience adventure/survival training and participate in team-building exercises.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you are an academic sophomore or grad student, complete the Leader's Training Course and join ROTC, you can earn a full tuition and fees scholarship along with additional financial assistance each school year.

When you make the Army ROTC's Leader's Training Course part of your UA experience next summer, there's no limit to what you'll be able to achieve. You'll gain the leadership skills, discipline and confidence to succeed in college and in life.

For more information contact

UA Army ROTC

MAJ Calvin Summers

cjsummers@ua.edu

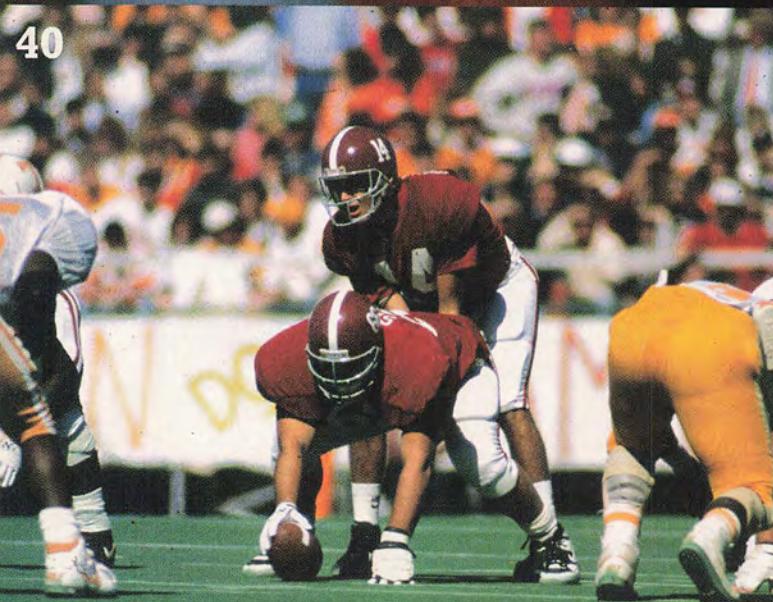
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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

April 2008

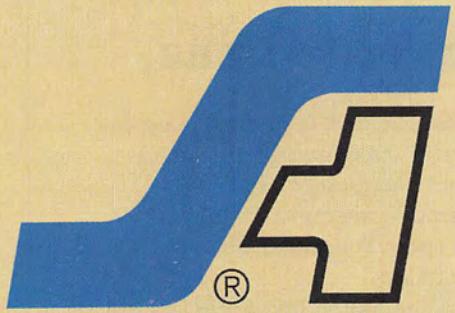
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Dear Fellow Crimson Tide Fans,

No, there weren't any parades following Alabama's 2008 football signing day, although it was recognized by just about every entity except the Eufaula Tribune and Golf Week as the nation's number one recruiting class.

In sections of the country—this section, for sure—the quest for football prospects is followed by fans as if recruiting is a sport. Recruiting is not the end. It is part of the means to an end; a big part of the process.

Alabama Coach Nick Saban and his staff kept the ball rolling. From late last spring through the early days of winter, Alabama added non-binding commitments from top high school football prospects. After a quiet January, the Crimson Tide under Saban did what it had not done under his predecessor, Mike Shula.

Alabama did what Saban implores his football team to do.

Alabama finished the job.

Bama went into the final week before Signing Day ranked number one in the nation in recruiting, but in order to hold on to that position the Crimson Tide had to land a few big names at the end.

What a finish it was. Tailback Mark Ingram from Michigan committed the day before the February 6 Signing Day, and in-state stars Julio Jones, Jerrell Harris and Marcel Dareus put pen to Alabama scholarship paper on the day.

Moreover, Alabama had no players commit to the Tide and then decide to try greener pastures. The decommit bug hit many teams like a bad case of flu, but Bama was immune. Call it the Saban vaccine.

A couple of early entries (wide receiver Chris Jackson and placekicker-punter Coley Smith) will get spring work with Alabama's football team, but for most of the newcomers the first taste of Bama ball will come in summer workouts, followed by August camp. It is then that signing day success can first translate into on-the-field success. As delightful as it was to ring up win after win on that first Wednesday in February, the greater glee and the lasting joy come from autumn victories.

It is not realistic to expect one signing class to turn a 7-6 team into a big winner. (This was Saban's first real signing class, since he had only about a month to finish up recruiting work in 2007.) Alabama has a number of key players returning, including several second- and third-year starting players, and so the freshman class won't have to do it all.

But it's fair to say that this recruiting class could provide the foundation for championship seasons if Saban and his staff continue to add the material. It would be difficult to find anyone who doesn't think Saban will continue to succeed. He began that job—2009 recruiting—weeks before 2008 signees were in the fold.

We look forward with great anticipation to future football games and recruiting battles.

Sincerely,
Kirk McNair
Editor

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Best In Nation

Outstanding men added to Bama football

No offense, Joe Terranova, but Clem Gryska didn't even know who you were. Terranova developed the concept of ranking high school players and rating college football teams' recruiting, but he was far ahead of his time. Too far ahead. He was also a fulltime employee of a major corporation and doing his recruiting work as a part-time hobby. Gryska was Alabama's recruiting coordinator under Paul Bryant.

That was then and this is now. Today, head coaches may say they don't pay any attention to the rankings of prospects, but they and their assistants glean a great deal of information from outside sources. While the evaluations of coaches continue to be most important to a school in recruiting, today no stone can be left unturned in the search for talent. It is likely that no outside source is more closely monitored than Scout rankings.

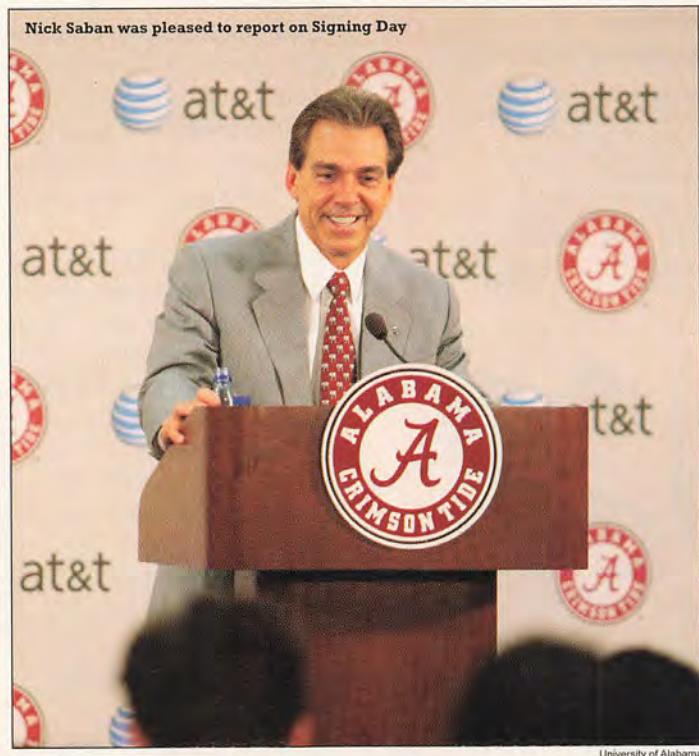
Scout has an extraordinary method of testing prospects. Like college coaches, the experts at Scout are watching players in high school games as they come up the ranks. Between their junior and senior football seasons, most of the top prospects in the nation will take part in at least one Scout-sponsored combine, in which the players are measured and weighed and put through numerous skill tests.

Throughout the season, these players (and others, including the occasional sleeper-senior) are monitored by Scout experts and the rankings are adjusted.

Finally, following signing day, Scout is able to make an objective analysis of how each team did.

This year Scout was out front of all others. Scout had Alabama number one a week before Signing Day. When Alabama's final group of signees came in on February 6, the Crimson Tide was a runaway winner of the national recruiting championship.

Once upon a time, when recruiting rankings were far more subjective and far less accurate, coaches were correct to downplay the final results as determined by outsiders. That is no longer the case, although that remains the practice.



University of Alabama

recruited by the Tide

Of the 32 Bama signees, 19 came from Alabama. The Tide added three from Tennessee and Florida, two from Georgia, and one each from Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Texas and West Virginia. (One junior college transfer is in the class. Terrence Cody is from Fort Myers, Florida, but comes to Bama from Gulf Coast Community College in Perkinston, Mississippi. Kerry Murphy is a native of Birmingham but spent the past football season at Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia.)

Alabama Coach Nick Saban knows that he had a national championship caliber-recruiting year.

Following the collection of this year's recruits, Saban said, "A little over a year ago, we stood up here and made a commitment to this institution to put The University of Alabama in a position to be successful as a football program in the future. Certainly, this recruiting class was a positive step in that direction."

Saban gave credit to University President Dr. Robert E. Witt and his administration, Athletics Director Mal Moore and his administration, the faculty and staff, and members of the football program beyond coaches, including the training and strength and conditioning staffs.

After all, championships are not measured by recruiting. How the players do on the field in upcoming seasons is the test.

Nevertheless, the lamentations of rival fans sound like whistling past the graveyard. Soon after signing day there was a Baldwin County murder case in which Alabama's top signee, Julio Jones, was called as a witness. Soon after a humorous post appeared on the Alabama Internet site BamaMag.com: "Auburn says Julio Jones Over-Rated As Witness."

Speaking of Auburn, it was notable that Alabama and Auburn went head-to-head for a number of players. Of those, 14 who were offered scholarships by Auburn signed with Bama. None of those signed by the Tigers had been aggressively



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He gave particular credit to the members of the team for the job they did in landing their "new teammates." He said, "Our players did a fantastic job of helping us recruit this class and certainly we want these young men that come in here to want to be great people, they want a good education and be great students and they want to be quality football players and reach their full potential and be as good as they can be at everything that they do, which is certainly what we want our current players to do. I think this class will be a quality group of teammates for the players we have on our team."

Saban even gave credit to the fans for their "positive energy" in support of the Crimson Tide. He made particular mention of the 92,000 who showed up for the 2007 Alabama A-Day Game, and said he had heard about that spring practice crowd many times on the recruiting trail.

A primary job of an assistant coach is to recruit, and Saban put together a recruiting machine when he molded the Crimson Tide coaching staff a year ago. Those coaches drew praise from the head coach.

Saban said, [T]heir time, energy and effort is probably more than you know, more than you can imagine in terms of what we all try to do together as a group to have success in recruiting. Recruiting is the lifeline of all of us in this profession."

Almost everyone was giving particular praise to Alabama

Assistant Coach Lance
Thompson, who had
recruiting responsibility for
the Mobile area. That section
of the state has been firmly
in the hands of Auburn
recruiters in recent years,
but this year Bama was very
successful in that talent-rich
part of the state.

Saban said that "it was a
good year in-state," and gave
credit to the high school
programs and coaches. He
said that Alabama would
expand its relationships with
coaches outside the state so
the Tide could do more national recruiting and "certainly" be active
in the region in the future. (Incidentally, Saban was already hard at
work on the 2009 class before Signing Day.)

Two of the "new" signees, wide receiver Chris Jackson and
kicking specialist Corey Smith, have already enrolled in The
University and will participate in spring practice.

Because they were able to graduate from high school and enter
The University for the spring semester, Jackson and Smith count
against the 2007 signing class, not against this year's class. Only 25
new scholarship players may be added, so now the Tide is in the
process of putting 30 signees into the 25 spots.

As Saban pointed out, there is a plan. He did not divulge that
plan, but said a number of factors make over-signing pragmatic;
one reason over a dozen colleges nationwide signed 30 or more
players. Some signees may fail to gain academic eligibility. Others
could (though Saban did not say this) pay their expenses or enter

Lance Thompson



University of Alabama

The University under some other scholarship process, such as the son of a former player under Coach Paul Bryant taking advantage of the Bryant Scholarship. (Wesley Neighbors is the only one of this class who would qualify for a Bryant Scholarship.) It is also possible that one or more signees could delay entry into The University on a fulltime basis and athletic participation with the team until the spring 2009 semester, the so-called "gray shirt" alternative.

Saban said, "I don't think I'm the closer. I do a lot of hard work and due diligence like the rest of our staff does. I am very involved in the evaluation of the players. We have an evaluation system, which involves the recruiting coach, the position coach, sometimes the coordinator and always the head coach. We're involved in all phases of it. I like it. I enjoy it. I like developing relationships with the families and the players we are recruiting. We enjoy it. I think we have a good recruiting staff."

The ink was hardly dry on scholarship papers before analysis began. Which of the newcomers might contribute to the 2008 Crimson Tide?

Several factors are involved. First, the player must be capable of making the big step up to major college football. Even then, the team must have a need for the player. No matter how good a new left

offensive tackle might be, he is unlikely to get much playing time behind an Andre Smith. Indeed, offensive linemen are ordinarily behind only quarterbacks in likelihood of early playing time. (That doesn't mean quarterback Star Jackson has no chance to play, but the odds are against him.)

The list of credentials for members of the latest Alabama football players is a long one. Five are Parade All-America (linebacker Jarrell Harris, wide receiver Julio Jones, defensive back Alonzo Lawrence, offensive lineman Tyler Love, and defensive lineman Kerry Murphy, who was on the 2006 squad). On the EA All-America Team were Jones and Lawrence (first team), Harris and Love (second team), and offensive Barrett Jones (third team). Defensive back Mark Barron, defensive lineman Marcel Dareus and Jones were Scout All-America and Jones was named to the USA Today team.

Twenty players were named to the Scout.com Southeast 150—Julio Jones, Love, Barron, Harris, Dareus, Burton Scott, Lawrence, Barrett Jones, Chris Jordan, Star Jackson, Courtney Upshaw, Devonta Bolton, Chris Jackson, Robby Green, Melvin Ray, Don'ta Hightower, Glenn Harbin, Destin Hood, John Michael Boswell, and Robert Lester.

Generally, skill position players have a better chance to play early, and defensive linemen and linebackers are more likely to contribute early than offensive linemen.

Saban said many of the new players are good athletes capable of playing more than one position. He said that players would be given an opportunity to first play the positions they would like to play.

As for whether he recruited to need, Saban said the first goal was to get the best athletes possible. And, he pointed out, Alabama's needs, at least from a depth standpoint, were everywhere. He said this recruiting class addressed all those needs.

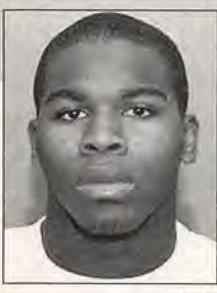
Scout Top Ten

1. **ALABAMA**
2. Notre Dame
3. Miami
4. Georgia
5. Michigan
6. LSU
7. Ohio State
8. Florida State
9. Southern Cal
10. UCLA

2008 Alabama Football Signees

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	40	Hometown (School)
Mark Barron	S-WR	6-2	205	4.5	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Undra Billingsley	DE	6-3	245	N/A	Birmingham (Woodlawn)
Devonta Bolton	TE-WR	6-4	210	4.5	Norcross, Ga.
John Michael Boswell	OL	6-5	290	N/A	Tuscaloosa (Tuscaloosa Co)
Terrence Cody	DT	6-5	385	N/A	Ft Myers, Fla (Gulf Coast)
Marcel Dareus	DT	6-5	285	4.8	Birmingham (Huffman)
Robby Green	CB	6-0	180	4.4	River Ridge, La. (Jn Curtis)
Glenn Harbin	DE	6-5	230	N/A	Mobile (McGill-Toolen)
Jerrell Harris	LB	6-3	208	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Dont'a Hightower	LB	6-2	245	4.7	Lewisburg, Tn. (Marshall)
Destin Hood	WR	6-2	182	4.5	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Mark Ingram	RB	5-10	202	4.5	Flint, Mich. (SW Academy)
#Chris Jackson	WR	6-1	190	4.5	McDonough, Ga. (Henry)
Star Jackson	QB	6-3	185	4.5	Lake Worth, Fla.
Barrett Jones	OT	6-5	270	N/A	Cordova, Tn. (Evnglcal Ch)
Julio Jones	WR	6-4	212	4.5	Foley
Chris Jordan	RB-LB	6-2	208	4.5	Brentwood, Tn. (Academy)
Alonzo Lawrence	CB	6-0	180	4.5	Lucedale, Miss. (George Co)
Robert Lester	S	6-2	205	4.6	Foley
Brandon Lewis	DE	6-3	260	N/A	Pleasant Grove
Tyler Love	OL	6-7	270	N/A	Birmingham (Mtn Brook)
Ivan Matchett	RB	5-10	205	4.6	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Kerry Murphy	DT-OT	6-6	317	5.3	Hoover (Hargrave Acad.)
Wesley Neighbors	S	6-2	195	4.55	Huntsville
Jermaine Preyear	RB	5-11	195	N/A	Mobile (Davidson)
Melvin Ray	WR	6-3	205	4.5	Tllhssee, Fla. (N. Fl. Chris.)
Burton Scott	WR-CB	5-10	190	4.4	Prichard (Vigor)
Brad Smelley	QB-WR	6-3	215	N/A	Tuscaloosa (ACA)
#Corey Smith	K-P	6-0	190	N/A	Bunker Hill, WVa (Mus'lman)
Damion Square	DL	6-3	275	4.75	Houston, Texas (Yates)
Courtney Upshaw	LB	6-2	225	N/A	Eufaula
Michael Williams	TE-DE	6-6	240	4.7	Reform (Pickens County)

#Early signee counts as 2007, enrolled and will go through spring practice.



MARK BARRON

Safety/Linebacker

Scout Rating: *****
Scout Rank: #1 WLB
Size: 6-2/205
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
 St. Paul's High School



UNDRA BILLINGSLEY

Defensive End

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #58 DT
Size: 6-3, 245
Hometown: Woodlawn High School
 Birmingham, Alabama

The Stats: Offensively-122 carries 1,094 yards 15 touchdowns (8.97 yards per carry, 72.93 yards per game), 18 receptions for 206 yards and a touchdown (11.44 yards per catch, 13.73 yards per game); Defensively-94 tackles, nine for a loss, three sacks, two interceptions, one touchdown. Barron carried the ball 78 times for 785 yards in 2006. He added 23 receptions for 368 yards. He scored a total of 12 touchdowns.

Accolades: Scout five-star weakside linebacker and number one in nation, Scout National 100 selection, ASWA first team all-state in Class 5A, Mobile Press Register Elite 18, No. 19 on the Press Register's Southeast Super 120, and an Orlando Sentinel All-Southern Team Alabama Athlete.

Strengths: "I feel like I have a lot of power when I run the ball. I am kind of quick. I have good vision, and I am versatile."

Needs to Improve: "I would probably like to get faster and stronger."

Projection: Barron is a player who could have an immediate impact at Alabama. He could play safety or linebacker and become a freshman All-America.

Why Alabama? "It is the place I felt the most comfortable. The main reason for me committing to Alabama is that it is where I fit in good, and I can play early. I like the support they get up there. The thing that attracted me the most was the fact that he (Coach Nick Saban) didn't mess around. He told the truth and got right to the point."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, LSU

Additional Facts: One of three players from St. Paul's to sign with the Crimson Tide in the 2008 class (Destin Hood, Ivan Matchett the others). St. Paul's lost its season opener and never lost another game and won the class 5A state championship.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Barron has very good speed and quickness. Most of all he's explosive, shows another gear and a great burst of acceleration when he gets a crease or makes a move. He shows very good hands as a receiver and can beat you deep. He's most dangerous in space with the ball. As a runner he shows the ability to hit the hole hard and displays super vision, balance and can change directions very well. Barron kicked it into another gear in the state championship game garnering his new five-star rating from the previous four-star."

St. Paul's Head Coach Mike Bates: "I think Mark will play really early. He has all the skills. He's a really good person. I enjoy being around Mark."

"There is nothing the kid can't do. He is the most versatile football player I've seen in 30 years."

"He played defense for us, and he also played a lot of offense. Very quiet kid. Very smart kid. He's explosive. You're talking about a kid that won the shot put and the triple jump in track, and he's a skill guy. You know you don't see skilled guys winning the shot put. You see those big linemen. He's an explosive kid."

"He's got real good work habits. He's very coachable. Very smart on the field."

The Stats: Billingsley had 100 tackles, with 10 for a loss of yardage during his senior season. He had 19 sacks with 11 hurries. Billingsley recorded 25 catches for 475 yards and three touchdowns as a junior. He recorded 60 solo tackles, 52 assisted tackles and eight sacks on defense.

Accolades: ASWA honorable mention all-state defensive end, Birmingham all-city selection.

Strengths: "My strengths are being able to beat blocks and my backside pursuit."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to improve on my speed."

Projection: Billingsley is very athletic starting at defensive end and tight end. He will likely grow into a defensive tackle.

Additional Facts: Billingsley carries a 4.4 GPA and is expected to graduate as the class Valedictorian

Why Alabama? "I have always been a fan of Alabama. When Coach Mike Shula was there they didn't recruit me. I went for an unofficial visit after Coach Saban got there, and it felt like family. I think Coach Saban is marvelous. He shows you there is going to be a family side and a hard working side. He is the perfect coach. When I talked to him he stressed academics. I like a coach who not is going to focus just on football. The coaching staff is friendly and welcoming, but at the same time they know their football. He told me he recruited me because I have a lot of character. There are guys who don't make the right decisions. He told me to do what I am supposed to do, and don't do anything to embarrass the program, myself or my mom."

Selected Alabama Over: Tennessee

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: Billingsley is a raw prospect who will benefit from Alabama's strength and conditioning program. He is a very gifted athlete and uses his intelligence to his advantage. He projects as a force on the defensive front.

Woodlawn Head Coach Pierre Goode: "Playerwise, Undra is a hard worker, has good discipline, is a good student. He has a 4.4 and is already qualified. I'm working with him right now to get him ready to go to college as far as strength and speed."

"Overall he's coachable. You don't have to sit there and use a lot of harsh words with him to get him to do what you need him to do."

"He can play on both sides of the ball. He could go to tight end and contribute. He could go to defensive tackle, defensive end and contribute. It's a matter of him getting there and getting with guys that are ready to work and pushing for one common goal to be a champion. He got a lot of double teams as a senior."

"We moved him from middle linebacker outside to defensive tackle/nose guard; several different positions on the defensive side. Offensively, we moved him from tight end, guard, tackle to fullback."

Goode, also a former Tide player, was not surprised at Billingsley's decision to pick Bama. He said Billingsley saw Alabama players having a "love for one another and trying to make themselves better as a player, in the classroom, and off the field."



DEVONTA BOLTON

Wide Receiver/Tight End

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #16 WLB
Size: 6-4/210/4.5
Hometown: Norcross, Georgia
 Norcross High School

The Stats: Bolton played both offense and defense during his senior season and was a big contributor on both sides of the ball. He hauled in 25 catches for 451 yards and five touchdowns on offense. He made 47 tackles including 27 solos on defense. He had five tackles for loss of yardage, one sack, one caused fumble, three pass break-ups, five interceptions with one interception returned for a touchdown.

Accolades: Georgia Sports Writers Association all-state honorable mention, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super South 100 Athlete.

Strengths: "The best thing about my game is my physicality, my size and my explosiveness."

Needs to Improve: "I am working real hard to improve my explosiveness coming off the ball. My focus is to get bigger, stronger, and to be a more complete player."

Projection: Bolton may begin his career on offense, but he is too good of a defender not to star on the opposite side of the ball. He could see playing time as a freshman if he moves to linebacker.

Additional Facts: He bench presses 330, squats 440 and power cleans 290.

Why Alabama? "I really love the unity and the chemistry on Alabama's staff. They have a great blend. I love the campus life, and the passion Alabama fans have for their team is crazy. They love their football team."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Florida, Georgia

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Bolton is a big, powerful, and physical wide receiver who shows good hands. Bolton is the type of receiver who can help a team move the chains with the tough catch. He is at his best running crossing routes and is not afraid to go over the middle. Bolton is dangerous after the catch, running with great power. He runs nice routes and is a gifted, physical receiver."

Norcross Head Coach Kevin Maloof: "It's been great for us. He's been a two-way player at strong safety and wide receiver for three years. He's an imposing figure. He does a lot of great things on both sides of the ball. Whatever Alabama chooses for him to do I really believe he will be an asset to the program."

"I can see them using him on either side. He could be a slot receiver, H-back, or even grow into a tight end on offense. On defense he can play outside linebacker or strong safety."

"He always has a smile on his face. He's always in the weight room. He's the hardest worker. He's going to go in there and do what he can to do better and to do more. He's always been that way. I've known him for a long time, and he's an extraordinary kid."

"He really liked Coach Saban when he came in here and talked to him. They were real honest with him, and I think it was a good relationship from the start."



JOHN MICHAEL BOSWELL

Offensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #34 OT
Size: 6-6, 305
Hometown: Northport, Alabama
 Tuscaloosa County High School

Stats: He graded 96 per cent in blocking for his senior season.

Accolades: Alabama Sports Writers Association all-state first-team offensive lineman as a senior and junior. Boswell made The Tuscaloosa News all-star team as a senior, Red Zone Player of the Year State of Alabama USA Today, Mobile Press-Register Super Southeast 120, Press-Register Elite 18 Offensive Lineman, Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game, Under Armour All-Star Game, and ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama.

Strengths: "I would say my size and my athleticism are my strengths. I can get off the ball pretty quick and get on people."

Needs to Improve: "I am trying to improve my footwork before next season."

Projection: Boswell is likely to redshirt as a freshman, always a luxury for offensive linemen.

Additional facts: Boswell was coached at Tuscaloosa County by former Tide player Robert Higginbotham. "It's kind of ironic. His dad is an Auburn guy. His mom is an Alabama fan, so he stuck with his mom on this," Higginbotham said. "He's been about the most decorated player I've ever had; certainly lineman."

Why Alabama? "I love Alabama. It's right here in town. I have always been an Alabama fan. A lot of my family are Alabama fans. I like the coaches. It felt like a family atmosphere. They show you a lot of love."

Selected Alabama Over: Clemson, Ole Miss, Georgia Tech

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Boswell is a player who will need a redshirt year to adapt to the college level. Boswell excels at pass blocking and is a good run blocker. He has power to move people out of the way. He has a great work ethic and could become an All-SEC lineman."

Tuscaloosa County Head Coach Robert Higginbotham: "You couldn't ask for a better player and a better person. He has been a real joy to work with. He's the type of player who comes out every day and works hard to get better. He's been so much bigger and better than everyone else pretty much his whole career, but it's really a tribute to him that he's worked hard to improve and continue to get better."

"I think he's going to have a great career. For offensive linemen you like to see them get redshirted. I think it's good for all of them to be able to do that, but I think probably he's good enough to play next year. Whether he gets redshirted or not I think they are going to get four good years out of him."

"He made all-state in USA Today. He made the Red Zone Player of the Year for the state of Alabama, and he made both of the all-star teams."



TERRENCE CODY

Defensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ****

Size: 6-5/385/5.6

Hometown: Fort Myers, Florida
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
(Perkinston, Mississippi)

Scout.com

The Stats: Cody made 31 tackles and 3.5 sacks on a team finishing 11-0 during the 2007 regular season and won their bowl game to finish the year 12-0.

Accolades: Scout four-star defensive tackle, All-American NJCAA first team for his defensive line play in 2007, MACJC Southern Division MVP and the number one ranked junior college player in Mississippi.

Strengths: "My footwork and my body strength."

Needs to Improve: At close to 400 pounds Cody knows he has to lose weight. "I am just working on my conditioning, and I want to improve weight room numbers too."

Projection: Cody is a monster on the defensive line and could see immediate playing time at Alabama.

Why Alabama? "They run the same defense we run at junior college. I would be familiar with it. They have a lot of history and tradition. Coach Saban is a real nice guy. He tells you what he likes about you. He tells you what is going on. He will be your friend, and sometimes he will be someone you hate. He knows how to get the job done."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, FSU, Ole Miss

Additional Facts: Mississippi Gulf Coast was the number one ranked rush defense allowing only 83 yards per game and number one total defense. They allowed 139 yards passing per game.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Cody is surprisingly quick and agile for his monster size. He has a wide frame that clogs up the middle and is the run-stopper the Alabama coaching staff has searched for in this class. He can become an impact player in Tuscaloosa if he manages his weight by shedding a few pounds and conditioning."

Mississippi Gulf Coast Head Coach Steve Campbell: "Terrence has been an outstanding player for us for two years, a first team All-America and a very dominant inside force. He's a great run stopper. He's a great kid. Terrence is an outstanding young man, a lot of fun to be around. He always has a smile on his face. He's been a pleasure to coach these last two years. He is a BIG fellow. You hate to say teddy bear because once he gets out on the field he'll turn it loose, but off the field he is a teddy bear."

"It wouldn't hurt him to shed some pounds. He can move for 400 pounds, but he doesn't need to weigh 400. He needs to get down in that 360 range, and he can do that once he gets on a good nutritional program. He's only been here one off-season heading into his second off-season, and he's finished playing. I see him being a dominant player. I had Howard Green, who was a great player at LSU and then went on to play in the NFL. Terrence is a more dominating force than Howard was at this same point. He's got a great future. I think he'll be an All-SEC player."



MARCEL DARIUS

Defensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ****

Scout Rank: #5 DT

Size: 6-5, 285, 4.8
Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama
Huffman High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Dareus recorded 107 tackles, 19.5 sacks and returned a fumble for a touchdown during his senior season.

Accolades: Dareus was recognized by the Alabama Sports Writers Association as all-state honorable mention and made the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 as a defensive tackle.

Strengths: "I would say my strengths are my size, power and strength."

Needs to Improve: "I want to get quicker and faster."

Projection: Dareus will play defensive tackle for Alabama. He is a player who projects as a first year contributor and will make an immediate impact. He does not expect to redshirt.

Additional Facts: Dareus had a great performance in May of 2007 at the ScoutSouth.com combine in Hoover. He is a former teammate with Alabama starting offensive tackle Andre Smith. Marcel's brother, Demerius, also selected Alabama, but will attend a junior college for two years before joining the Tide.

Why Alabama? "My brother and I felt like it was the best decision for our family. We wanted to stay close to home. My brother, mom and I decided a few days before we announced our decision. I felt like I was at home down there. The football players are real cool. It was a real good atmosphere. I think Coach Saban is a real nice person, but strict. You have to buckle down. He is cool, and he cares about his football players. The players at Alabama really stand out to me. It's nice how they do stuff together. I like it a lot. We know Coach Saban is a hard-nosed coach. We are going to go in and work hard for him. He is a good coach. I like that I can see early playing time at Alabama, too."

Selected Alabama Over: North Carolina, Auburn

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Dareus is a demon on the defensive line. He plays inside at tackle and outside at end. While he has the quickness as an end on the next level his future is likely at defensive tackle with his size. He controls his blockers, has a lightning quick first step and is tenacious in pursuit. He's the total package on the defensive line. A great pick up for the Tide as one of the best in the nation at his position."

Huffman Head Coach Alan Plump: "It's been a pleasure to coach him. He's a gentle giant. He's been very cooperative and has really displayed leadership over the last two seasons. He's been an impact player for the Huffman Vikings. He's very powerful, explosive off the ball. He's very quick. I believe a contributing factor to his quickness is him being a basketball player. For a lineman he has the footwork of a skilled player. He's looking for a place where he can fit in immediately and have an opportunity to compete for a starting position."



ROBBY GREEN

Cornerback

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #20 CB
Size: 6-0/180/4.4
Hometown: River Ridge, Louisiana
 John Curtis Christian School

Scout.com

The Stats: Green made 45 tackles, four interceptions with 61 return yards, deflected 13 passes and recovered two fumbles. Green also caught one pass for 11 yards. Green had eight punt returns for 165 yards (20.5 yards per return) with a 47 yard long. Two kick-off returns resulted in 75 yards.

Accolades: Green is all-state, all-district and Metro Player of the Year.

Strengths: "I am physical. I attack the ball and have good technique."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to improve my speed and quickness."

Projection: Green will play cornerback for Coach Nick Saban. He has good size and speed as an elite defensive back in the SEC. He likely will receive a redshirt as a freshman.

Why Alabama? "Every time I went to Alabama I felt in my heart that I wanted to be a part of the program. Coach Saban, Coach Burns and Coach Smart all played a big role in my decision. It all came down to what fit me best, and Alabama was it. My family is 100 per cent behind me and loves the decision I made. I love it too. It was a gut feeling. He's (Saban) a hands on guy. He was always real with me. He specializes with defensive backs. He has a close relationship with all of his players and is surrounded by a great coaching staff. He stressed to my parents and me that I would leave with a degree. He's the total package."

Selected Alabama Over: LSU, Tennessee, Southern Cal

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Green is a terrific cornerback with great size and quickness. He has great hips and is great in bump and run. He is physical and needs to continue to improve his strength."

John Curtis Christian Head Coach J.T. Curtis: "Robby is a cover corner who has played against the best competition in our state and out of state. He has been an excellent cover corner for the last two years. He has good range and excellent speed. He's a guy who can also come up and support in the run. He plays the run well. He returns punts for us, I expect him to have an impact in the Alabama program. I think Robby is capable of playing, but really and truly I'm not sure there are any freshmen that need to be out there unless the team needs them to be. The adjustment to college ball is dramatic."

"He's an excellent kid. He's never been in any kind of difficulties, very hard working guy, very dedicated, committed to football. A good student. The young man could have gone any place he wanted to."

"He liked Alabama, liked The University, liked the academic support and knew about Coach Saban, knew about Coach Burns and decided this is what I want to do."



GLENN HARBIN

Defensive End

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #74 DE
Size: 6-5, 230, 4.6
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
 McGill-Toolen High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Harbin had 59 tackles and eight sacks during his senior season.

Accolades: Mobile Press-Register Elite 18, Alabama Sports Writers Association honorable mention defensive lineman, Press-Register Super Southeast 120, Offense-Defensive All-American Game (Miami), ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama

Strengths: "I'm tall, so that helps. I'm quicker than most offensive linemen, and I can get around them fast. I think I can also intimidate them with my size."

Needs to Improve: "I definitely want to get bigger and be harder to move. I'm physical, but I want to get stronger."

Projection: Harbin will likely redshirt for his freshman year in 2008. One year in the strength and conditioning program will benefit Harbin.

Additional Facts: Harbin is also recruited for baseball and will possibly try both sports on the next level. He plays right field and has a .350 batting average with 32 RBIs, two home runs and 10 stolen bases last spring.

Why Alabama? "The atmosphere up there is unreal. I really like it. I like the coaches. Alabama is a really competitive team, and I've always liked their tradition. They have great history. I talked with Coach Nick Saban, and he's a cool, but intense guy. He really has high expectations, and says it's all about hard work."

Selected Alabama Over: North Carolina, South Carolina

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Harbin has a huge frame and has all the tools to become a dominating defensive lineman. He has quickness and needs to improve his burst off the line of scrimmage for the college level."

McGill-Toolen Head Coach Keith Powell: "Glenn has been a pleasure. He's such a high character young man. I've been with him for a little over three years, and I can't remember a time that we ever had to check on any of his dealings because of his behavior or not going to class. He's been a dream. I wish they were all like that."

"He told me he selected Alabama because he liked it, because it was close to home, and because of the Alabama tradition. Coach Saban and the staff that he's put together sold him immediately."

"He (Harbin) is intelligent and studies the game of football. He's only played on the defensive line for two years. When we came to this school three or four years ago he was a wide receiver."

"Obviously his size is going to be an asset to him as he is going to get even bigger. He's one of the few kids I've seen in high school who could gain weight while playing basketball. He'll go in and play baseball when he gets through with basketball season. He's able to play three sports and maintain his academics. His work habits are very important. He's a dream to work with."

"I think the sky is the limit. Athletically, he's got a lot of tools to work with. For a kid his size, he can really run. He's got that long stride being 6-6. His wingspan is unbelievable."

"There's a young man that played at Alabama a few years ago that is with the Tennessee Titans named Antwan Odom, and Glenn reminds me so much of him from watching Antwan in high school."



JERRELL HARRIS

Linebacker

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #3 WLB
Size: 6-3/208/4.5
Hometown: Gadsden, Alabama
 Gadsden City High School

Scout.com

The Stats: As a senior, Harris made 145 tackles (97 solo), 16 tackles for loss, three pass break-ups, 20 quarterback pressures, four caused fumbles, three recovered fumbles. Harris returned one fumble for a touchdown and scored on an interception return.

Accolades: Alabama Sports Writers Association first team all-state and Super 12, Under-Armour All-Star game (Orlando), finalist for Alabama's Mr. Football, Orlando Sentinel All-Southern Team Alabama Linebacker, Parade Magazine All America Team 2007, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 linebacker. Harris also was first team all-state as a junior.

Strengths: "I'm versatile and have a nose for the football. I'm also very aggressive and can find my way to the ball. I never give up."

Needs to Improve: "I still want to get better at taking on blocks and hand placement and technique."

Projection: Harris has played all over the field in high school, but will play outside linebacker for the Tide. He is an instant impact player and will see a lot of playing time his freshman season.

Why Alabama? "Just being around people down there. I didn't want to go too far from home. I have a great relationship with Coach Saban."

Selected Alabama Over: Southern Cal, Clemson, Auburn, Tennessee

Additional Facts: When Harris announced his decision to sign with Alabama on National Signing Day he placed a houndstooth cap on his head (houndstooth being emblematic of legendary Alabama Coach Paul W. "Bear" Bryant). He is the first player from Gadsden City High School to sign a football scholarship with Alabama.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Harris plays the run well, can rush the passer, and also excels in pass coverage. He can also put his hand down and get after the quarterback. Harris has good size, speed and sees the field well. He plays with discipline and patience and seems to diagnose the play quickly. Harris is tough against the run and sheds blockers with ease. He tackles well. Against the pass he seems comfortable in coverage, showing good vision and anticipation."

Gadsden City Head Coach Joe Billingsley: "He's been a pleasure to coach. He exemplifies a great work ethic; a very grounded young man. He is very humble, very team oriented. He should excel."

He has explosion, speed, tenacity, and gives great effort, which are his biggest strengths. He goes full speed.

"Jerrell is kind of reserved. He doesn't talk a whole lot, but when he does people listen to what he says. He doesn't have a lot of wasted effort. He is appreciative of everything he's achieved and he knows that a lot of what he's achieved is through a team effort, and that's the quality that he will carry wherever he goes."



DON'TA HIGHTOWER

Defensive End/Linebacker

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #27 DE
Size: 6-2/245/4.7
Hometown: Lewisburg, Tennessee
 Marshall County High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Recorded 168 tackles (14 for loss), five forced fumbles, five interceptions and four fumble recoveries. He also added 875 yards and 19 touchdowns as a tight end on offense. As a junior, he had 98 tackles, two sacks, and seven forced fumbles. He caught 18 passes for 253 yards and four touchdowns. He rushed for over 1,000 yards as a sophomore in only four games of action.

Accolades: The Tennessean's Defensive Most Valuable Player of 2007, Class 3A Mr. Football Lineman of the Year, First team All-State voted by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association, West All-Region as voted by the coaches, a member of The Tennessean's Dream Team, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 defensive end.

Strengths: "I feel I understand the game and have good techniques."

Need to Improve: "To get stronger and get better with my techniques."

Projection: Hightower will have the opportunity to contribute early. He was recruited to play "Jack" linebacker, but could grow into a defensive end.

Why Alabama? "I think what really got me was the state of Alabama, and the community as well as Coach (Nick) Saban and Coach (Kevin) Steele. Pretty much everything about Alabama I liked, and it just felt like home. He (Saban) came to see me at school in the spring, and when I went down to Alabama both times I got to sit down and talk to him. He told me that I fit the criteria for an Alabama student-athlete. I'm athletic and I keep my head in the books. He told me that I was one of his favorites, so I guess he got what he wanted. Every high school athlete's dream is to go pro, and I think that I could get that done by going to The University of Alabama. They have a great history of sending a lot of players to the NFL. I think that Alabama could be my best bet for me to get into the NFL and get a good education."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Tennessee, Vanderbilt

Additional Facts: Hightower was one of three (Chris Jordan and Barrett Jones are the others) of the top players Coach Nick Saban lured out of Tennessee to play football in Tuscaloosa.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Hightower has a way of finding the ball and uses his speed to get from sideline-to-sideline. He is a physical specimen and could see early playing time as a freshman."

Marshall County Head Coach Don Thomas: "He's a tremendous player and a tremendous young man. I think that's what makes him so special is because he has tremendous athletic ability, and then his character and his integrity are great. This is my first year here, and he's been a tremendous impact for the team. He does whatever we need. He's our defensive leader, and offensively he's been a workhorse. Whenever he touches the ball he does something really good."



DESTIN HOOD

Wide Receiver

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #61 WR
Size: 6-2/182/4.5
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
 St. Paul's High School

The Stats: Hood recorded 51 receptions for 963 yards and 15 touchdowns his senior season. Hood caught 28 passes for 650 yards and scored 12 touchdowns in his junior campaign.

Accolades: The all-state performer was recognized by the Mobile Press-Register in the statewide Elite 18, Southeast Super 120 and ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama.

Strengths: "I would say my strengths are my hands and my ability to go up in the air to catch the ball. My route running is one of my strengths."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to work on my lateral speed, my route running, and my quickness from side-to-side."

Projection: Hood projects as a wide receiver, but he could move to defensive back. He showed incredible skills in the Class 5A state play-offs at cornerback, and he may have found a new home.

Why Alabama? "Alabama is a real nice place. It feels like St. Paul's to me. It's a good place for me. There are a lot of people from here going there. The academics are great. It's a good place to make myself better and become a better player."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Florida, LSU

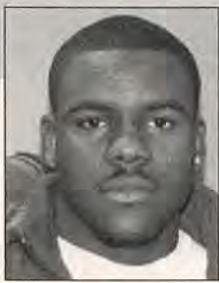
Additional Facts: Hood is also an outstanding baseball player and has a chance to go very high in the MLB draft. He plans to play baseball as a second sport at Alabama if he bows out of the MLB draft. Hood won the Home Run Derby in conjunction with the fifth Annual Aflac All-American High School Baseball Classic in San Diego last summer.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Hood is standout on offense and defense. He is a lock-down cornerback and loves press-coverage. He is excellent as a receiver with great hands and runs excellent routes. He makes a lot of big plays, because he's very talented, but also because he's very smart. He's an instinctive player. He understands the game. He's very intelligent. He grasps concepts quickly."

St. Paul's Head Coach Mike Bates: "Destin might be the best pure athlete on the team. He's got great hands. He can jump. He's got great speed. He's a physical kid, very physical. Destin brings a lot of speed to the field. He's not a 4.3 guy, but he runs well in pads. Some guys run great times, but don't run well in pads."

"He's got an infectious smile. He's a very personable young man and very articulate. If you don't like Destin there is probably something wrong with you. He's a great kid. I love to be around Destin. I'll really miss him."

"I think the sky is the limit for him. He can play on either side of the ball. He can play corner if you need him to. I'm sure he could play safety. He can play receiver. He can just do so many things. He's really good at what he does."



MARK INGRAM

Running Back

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #58 RB
Size: 5-10, 202, 4.5
Hometown: Flint, Michigan
 Southwestern Academy

The Stats: Ingram rushed for 1,700 yards and 24 touchdowns his senior season. He had 33 tackles and two interceptions on defense.

Accolades: East Lansing Region 5 Great 8 Award for top running back

Strengths: "I have a good combination of power and speed. I can get the tough yards, but also make a move and break a big run. I run good routes and catch the ball well."

Needs to Improve: "I want to improve my pass blocking and have a better awareness of the blitz."

Projection: Alabama has returning Glenn Coffee, Roy Upchurch, Terry Grant and redshirt freshman Demetrious Goode who will receive plenty of playing time. Coach Nick Saban likes to use a lot of running backs, but Ingram is likely to redshirt his first year if Bama has an injury free season for the upperclassmen.

Additional Facts: The son of former New York Giants and Michigan State wide receiver Mark Ingram, Sr. Marc Ingram, Jr. was a four-year starter, the first three seasons for Grand Blanc, and his senior year at Flint Southwestern Academy. Ingram is a nine-time all-state track star. He runs a 10.69 100-meter dash and 21.9 in the 200. His best long jump is 23-8.

Why Alabama? "The situation was best for me. I love the tradition at Alabama--the 12 National Championships, the 21 SEC Championships. It's a great situation, football and academically. I get along with all the players down there. It's not tough for me to leave the state. They are all about winning championships, and I want to help bring that championship to them. Coach Saban is real excited. He is glad I decided to come to Alabama. They got in kind of late in the recruitment, but that's no problem. I just hope I can contribute early."

"Coach Saban is one of the best football recruiters in the country. You can just look at this year's recruiting class. I love all the coaches. They welcomed me in with open arms. They have said they will always have their door open whenever I needed them. I love that welcoming factor. My dad has known Coach Saban for a while. My dad thinks it's a great decision for me. It's the best football conference in the country. He has told me Coach Saban has been a winner everywhere he has been. He is going to have us playing in the BCS national championship game in a few years. It's the best opportunity for me."

Selected Alabama Over: Iowa, Michigan State

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Ingram is one of the most underrated running backs in the country. His combination of speed and power are absolutely incredible. He can get to the outside edge and go the distance. He is lightning fast and possibly the biggest surprise of the 2008 class."

Former Southwestern Academy Coach Gary Lee: "Ultimate leader, tremendous player, great student. He's a real special young man. I think that he's been blessed with a lot of God-given talent, but he's not one of those kids who is blessed with that kind of talent and won't work hard. He works very hard. With the tremendous amount of ability he has and his willingness to work it sets him apart from a lot of kids. Any coach knows that once you get to the collegiate level you have people with the same types of talent. A lot of times it comes down to which kid works the hardest, and he's willing to work. I think that's why he's going to be successful."



CHRIS JACKSON

Wide Receiver

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #42 WR
Size: 6-1, 190, 4.5
Hometown: McDonough, Georgia
 Henry County High School

The Stats: Jackson made 76 catches for 1,470 yards and 19 touchdowns his senior season. He added five rushing touchdowns. He had 91 tackles on defense. Jackson finished his junior year with 45 catches (in nine games) for 800 yards and eight touchdowns. He added seven interceptions with two returned for touchdowns.

Accolades: Jackson was named 3A Offensive Player of the Year in the state of Georgia. Jackson was also named first team all-state.

Strengths: "I excel at route running and getting off the line of scrimmage."

Needs to Improve: "I hope to improve my speed."

Projection: Jackson will play wide receiver at Alabama. He is a talented athlete who could also play cornerback, but will likely stick to receiver throughout his career. Jackson will have a great opportunity to contribute as a freshman.

Additional Facts: Jackson was the first commitment for the class of 2008 for Georgia Tech. He re-opened his recruitment when Chan Gailey was fired as head coach of the Yellow Jackets. He signed with Alabama in December and is enrolled at The Capstone.

Why Alabama? "Alabama is a great program with tremendous tradition. I look forward to playing football for Coach Saban and his staff. I'm honored to be a part of the best recruiting class in America. Coach Saban is one of the best I have ever seen. He is great at recruiting. He has a great coaching staff to help him out."

Selected Alabama Over: Georgia Tech

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Jackson is a very good receiver who can beat a defense a number of ways, especially deep. He has deceptive speed and is a long strider. Jackson runs good routes and has excellent body control, concentration and hands. Jackson doesn't mess around going East and West and is a North-South ball carrier all the way."

Henry County High School Head Coach Mike Rozier: "First of all he was an outstanding player for us and more importantly an outstanding person. He is a good student on-and-off the field. He conducted himself like a young man, and he had a tremendous year for us. He played both sides of the ball for us. He was a leader. He was one of our captains, so that tells you what kind of kid he is. He just had a great career for us."

"He committed to Georgia Tech early on, and they had a coaching change. I think Alabama's coaches—Kirby Smart, Geoff Collins and Coach Saban—are why he chose Alabama. They came in and did a good job with him. I think Coach Saban sold him, and, more importantly, sold his mother."

"They are going to try him at receiver. He's already enrolled there. He graduated early, so he's already in their weight program. He's going to get a head start on everybody."



STAR JACKSON

Quarterback

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #11 QB
Size: 6-3/185/4.5
Hometown: Lake Worth, Florida
 Lake Worth High School

The Stats: Jackson completed 97 of 180 passes for 1,677 yards during the regular season. He threw 13 touchdown passes and only three interceptions.

Accolades: Jackson was selected to play in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl All-Star game in San Antonio in January. He was the Palm Beach Post's Offensive Player of the Year, Atlanta Journal Constitution Super Southern 100 (one of only three quarterbacks selected), and Mobile Press Register Super Southeast 120.

Strengths: "You have to let the offense fit into you. I know I can't be the person who drops back and throws play action passes all night long. I am a quarterback who is also an athlete, not the other way around. It's good to do things that people don't expect from you each week."

Needs to Improve: "A quarterback is never at the top of his game. Peyton Manning is the greatest quarterback in the NFL. He continues to work on the small things. I need to continue to work on my progression. I need to get the extra seven yards for a first down or standing in the pocket to make a better pass. I need to take my game where I can stand in the pocket."

Projection: John Parker Wilson is a senior with back-ups Greg McElroy and Nick Fanuzzi. Jackson will have a shot for pushing as a back-up his first year, but will likely redshirt.

Why Alabama? "Alabama felt like home to me."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, West Virginia

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Jackson has a great feel for the game. He is very good at sensing the rush and adjusts quickly to either bail or use his quick release to get rid of the ball. Jackson is very good at locating open receivers on the run outside the pocket and has great touch on the ball inside 25 yards. Jackson stands tall in the pocket and reads quickly."

Lake Worth Athletics Director Seth Groveman: "I've never seen a kid make such a vast improvement from certainly two years to this year, but from one year to the next as well."

"He was a good player last year, but he became a superstar. He certainly is a true leader on the field and off the field. He has been a major, major part of this program. I think he is going to be a great player at the next level."

"He definitely is a guy that leads by example, but he's also a vocal leader. He's always encouraging teammates and re-directing teammates. You know in high school I always said watching the games he was much more advanced than the talent around him, but he never got down on people if they would drop passes."

"He recognized that he was more talented than anyone in the area and he also realized he had to be a leader. He gained confidence."

"He handled his success well. He was always getting requests for interviews and the like and he stayed grounded."



BARRETT JONES

Offensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #18 OT
Size: 6-5/270/4.9
Hometown: Cordova, Tennessee
 Evangelical Christian



JULIO JONES

Wide Receiver

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #1 WR
Size: 6-4, 212, 4.5
Hometown: Foley, Alabama
 Foley High School

Accolades: Jones was a Division II AA Mr. Football Lineman Finalist, All Mid-State from The Tennessean, West Tennessee Coaches All-Region team, TSWA All-State First Team. The lineman was also honored by inclusion in the Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio.

Strengths: "My strengths are my foot speed, agility and athleticism."

Needs to Improve: "I need to improve my weight, strength and technique."

Projection: Jones could play any position on the offensive line. He is listed as a tackle, but may have a career at guard. He will likely redshirt his freshman season.

Why Alabama? "Alabama is the university where I feel that I can best fulfill my academic and athletic goals. I have bled crimson since birth. All my family loves Alabama. My dad went there. I have a great relationship with Kevin Steele, my recruiter. I have great respect for Coach Saban as a coach and a man."

Selected Alabama Over: Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Vanderbilt

Additional Facts: Jones missed half of his junior season due to a torn labrum in his shoulder. His surgery was performed by Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, and Jones has fully recovered. His father, Rex Jones, played basketball for Alabama.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Jones has great feet and moves well for a big man, both north-south as well as laterally. Jones is quick off the ball, shows nice agility and bend. He can block well on the move and also is a dominating drive blocker. Jones does a nice job of using his feet to stay in front of the defender in pass protection and shows the ability to move side-to-side. He could play either guard or tackle."

Evangelical Christian Coach Jim Heinz: "Just an outstanding young man who I feel is going to make Alabama an excellent football player. I think he has proven that. The competition we've been playing, and I watched him in an All-Star Game down in San Antonio, and thought he did well, really did well."

"He'll graduate at 17. He's not one of those 18 year olds. He's a July birthday. I feel like that as he gets stronger and grows into his body that he is going to really make them a good football player."

"He's a good worker, a very intelligent young man, one of our smartest kids--4.0-plus grade point average. His ACT is 30-plus so a very intelligent young man. I really feel like he's going to make Alabama an excellent football player."

"I think Barrett realizes it's going to be tougher. It's college football, but him getting to experience the all-star game against some of the best in the country I think he understands the hard work it's going to take."

"I've never had this many schools come in over any kid, and we've had them go to the SEC before."

"I think that hiring Coach Saban certainly helped that situation. I think those are things that I think influenced him. I also think that he looked at the academic part of it and felt like Alabama would be a fit for him and be a challenge, and he likes that too."

The Stats: Jones made 68 receptions for 1,181 yards and 16 touchdowns his senior season. He added one rushing touchdown and another touchdown on special teams play for a total of 18. He made 75 receptions for 1,301 yards receiving and found the end zone 15 times during his junior season. He also reached the end zone 20 times during the 2006 season from the defensive side of the ball and special teams.

Accolades: Jones was named Alabama's Mr. Football, The Tampa Tribune's sixth annual Best of the South Team selected by college recruiting coordinators, ASWA Super 12 wide receiver and defensive back, ASWA first team 6A wide receiver, ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama, Under Armour All-Star (Orlando), Gatorade's Player of the Year for Alabama, Mobile Press-Register Elite 18, Parade Magazine All-American, USA Today All-USA first team defensive back, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 wide receiver. Jones was first team all-state as a junior.

Strengths: Jones has it all--size, speed, hands, elusiveness and durability. He has incredible leaping ability and punishes defenders.

Needs to Improve: Jones needs to improve his route running skills.

Projection: Jones will play wide receiver for the Tide and could become the number one target in 2008. He will see a lot of playing time in his first year and expect Jones to have a stellar career.

Additional Facts: For his sophomore, junior and senior seasons: 194 receptions for 3,287 yards, 43 touchdowns, three rushing touchdowns, two kick return touchdowns, two punt return touchdowns and two fumbles recovered and returned for touchdowns. Career touchdowns: 52. He is the highest rated wide receiver to ever come out of the state of Alabama.

Why Alabama? "Alabama has a great coaching staff. I felt real comfortable with all of them. Each school had some great things to offer, but when it came down to making my decision I felt more comfortable with Alabama."

Selected Alabama Over: Oklahoma, Florida State, Florida

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Jones has a great combination of size, speed, quickness, and athleticism. He is tough over the middle and can get behind the secondary. Jones can take the short pass and make the first defender miss or run right through him. He's so dangerous with the ball in his hands because of his sheer size, power, speed and elusiveness. Jones has very good balance and super vision. Jones is also super in the air and has great hands."

Foley Head Coach Todd Watson: "He's a first class guy. He's done everything we've asked him to do here, and he's been a good leader for us. A lot of times you can get in situations where somebody garners that much attention and it can be a negative if they don't handle it correctly, but that wasn't the case. Our kids still had respect for him because of what he was able to accomplish and his work ethic and staying humble. He really has a great sense of humor and once he gets comfortable around you he's a laid back guy. He's a lot of fun to be around."



CHRIS JORDAN

Running Back

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #26 RB
Size: 6-2, 208, 4.5
Hometown: Brentwood, Tennessee
 Brentwood Academy



ALONZO LAWRENCE

Cornerback

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #11 CB
Size: 6-0/180/4.5
Hometown: Lucedale, Mississippi
 George County High School

The Stats: Jordan played in 11 games and rushed for 1,258 yards on 197 carries. The solid back averaged 6.3 yards per carry and scored 18 touchdowns. He averaged 112.1 yards per game and his longest run was 66 yards. He also hauled in three passes for 85 yards with a 77-yard long and another touchdown.

Accolades: First-team TSWA All-State honoree and was named The Tennessean's All-Mid-State second team offense running back 2007.

Strengths: "I am a big back with speed who can run between tackles and hit the outside. I am a balanced back who can fight for extra yards."

Needs to Improve: "I want to improve my speed and hands."

Projection: Jordan will begin his career at running back for the Crimson Tide. He is a gifted athlete who could play both sides of the ball and eventually move to outside linebacker. He could see playing time as a freshman if he moves to defense, but will likely receive a redshirt if he remains on offense.

Additional Facts: Jordan soldiered through a senior (2007) season with a nagging high ankle sprain that required surgery in the post season. He prepped at Norcross High School in suburban Atlanta before moving to Nashville for the 2006 season.

Why Alabama? "I chose Alabama mainly because of my official visit. I went there with my mom and dad. The day before I ate breakfast with Coach Saban. I had a real good feeling about Alabama. I ate breakfast with Coach Saban and the coaches and decided Alabama was the place for me. I loved the coaching staff, and the people down there. Coach Saban did a fantastic job recruiting me. I did not have a head coach call me as much as he did or send me as many letters. He and Coach Curt Cignetti did a great job recruiting me."

Selected Alabama Over: Clemson

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Jordan has a good combination of size, speed and power. He hits the hole hard and has the ability to break tackles. Jordan runs with good leg drive and always keeps his legs moving, giving great effort. He is one of those backs who has the ability to get yards after the first contact, and he runs with excellent balance. Jordan is a long strider with good athleticism."

Brentwood Academy Coach Ralph Potter: "I think physically he's a very gifted young man. I think that he has a great heart about him. He's got great character. He's always going to do the right thing. He has a really compassionate side to him in a lot of ways. I think he'll be a good leader on the team. He will fit well there. He's athletically very gifted and was able this year to fight through a pretty severe injury. He played all year with a high ankle sprain that required surgery after the season was over. I think he showed a lot of toughness and durability by doing that."

The Stats: Lawrence made 97 tackles, (74 solo), four sacks, seven forced fumbles, two fumbles recoveries, two fumbles returned for touchdowns and three interceptions. Lawrence also had 30 receptions for 772 yards and 11 touchdowns. He returned five kick-offs and one punt for touchdowns.

Accolades: Parade Magazine All-American Team, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 defensive back, number eight on Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120, Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game, All-State Jackson Clarion Ledger, all-state 5A first team cornerback in 2006.

Strengths: "I have good speed and am tough. I can press and jump and am really athletic."

Needs to Improve: "I need to improve on my technique and precision, especially with my hands."

Projection: Lawrence projects to play cornerback for the Tide. He is an elite defender who could see plenty of playing time as a freshman. He could make the same type of impact Kareem Jackson did for Bama as a freshman last season.

Additional Facts: Younger brother of former Clarion Ledger Dandy Dozen selection Co-Eric Riley of Mississippi State. Became particularly noticed region-wide after his performances against the likes of DeAndre Brown and Julio Jones.

Why Alabama? "I really like the Alabama coaching staff, and I like all the guys over there. They are putting together a great group, and I think they are going to win the national championship. They are all about winning championships, and that is what we are going to do. I am coming to Alabama next year with the mind-set on winning the national championship."

Selected Alabama Over: Miami, Ole Miss

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Lawrence is a special talent and could star on either side of the ball at the next level. He is aggressive and extremely confident when he steps on the field. He is great in coverage and loves to lay big hits. He is a major pick up for the Tide."

George County Head Coach Al Jones: "Alonzo is one of the best athletes that I have ever coached. He can return kicks and punts, play wide receiver or defensive back. He is as talented as his older brother Co-Eric, but a bit more physical."

"I can remember people coming up to me and telling me there was this great kid playing pee-wee football. I saw him, and I knew he was something special. When Co-Eric was playing for us, this little kid (Alonzo) kept asking me to be ball boy. He showed through that his love of the game."

"You see a lot of players come through with talent and athletic ability, but they don't take it to the next level. Alonzo made the decision to follow the rules, develop his ability and fulfill his academic responsibilities."

"It's been a great honor for me as a coach. I have been coaching 25 years, and I have seen a lot of great athletes. Before long he is going to set the standard. He set a new standard here. He has meant a lot to this school. We had a team that got us to the championship, and he was a big factor."

"When I see young men like Alonzo reach his potential he has taken the talent God gave him to become a great talent. He has been successful to this point, and I look forward to seeing him continue to be successful. He always rose to the challenge whenever we asked him to do something."



ROBERT LESTER

Safety

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #36 S
Size: 6-2/205/4.6
Hometown: Foley, Alabama
 Foley High School

BRANDON LEWIS

Defensive End

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #54 DE
Size: 6-3, 260
Hometown: Pleasant Grove, Alabama
 Pleasant Grove High School



The Stats: Lester made 74 tackles, one tackle for a loss, two caused fumbles, one fumble recovery, six interceptions with 82 return yards, 11 pass break-ups and two blocked punts. He had six punt returns for 86 yards, four kickoff returns for 214 yards and a touchdown.

Accolades: Lester was an ASWA All-State first-team defensive back and a ScoutSouth.com Star of.

Strengths: "Robert Lester is a big physical player with great ball skills. He's just always around the ball and knows where the ball will be prior to the snap. When the ball is snapped he likes to make plays and runs to the football. That's what we ask him to do," said Foley Defensive Backs Coach David Watson.

Needs to Improve: Speed and coverage skills.

Projection: Lester will begin his career at safety. He could see playing time as a freshman, especially on special teams.

Why Alabama? "It's a place where I want to play and feel comfortable. It's a school close to home, and I know a lot of people who go there."

Selected Alabama Over: Oklahoma

Additional Facts: Lester received a scholarship offer from Alabama shortly after his outstanding performance against Daphne on ESPN. Lester, teammate of Julio Jones, relayed a story when the two visited Tuscaloosa for the Tennessee game, "On the way to the game one of the Tennessee coaches called Julio. He was making sure Julio was going to be at the game so they could show him who the big dogs were. I was so excited and pumped up to get there after that phone call. I was really glad to be at the game. (Alabama won 42-17.) Julio told coach (Nick) Saban about it after the game. They laughed."

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Lester is very physical. He has great size and speed to play safety and linebacker on the next level. Lester's strengths include his size and speed, and he would like to improve his overall playing pursuit."

Foley Head Coach Todd Watson: "I think his size for a defensive back is a strength. His size is going to be one of his attributes. I think he has good ball skills being able to go get a deep ball and play the football some. I think he's going to be a physical guy because of his size."

Foley Defensive Backs Coach David Watson: "He's a great kid. He's great to be around, and he has a great personality. He's fun to coach. He keeps the guys laughing and joking. He keeps the mood light, but at the same time when it's time to get serious he'll get serious and do what we ask him to do. I think he'll be a great asset for The University of Alabama. Robert Lester is a big physical player with great ball skills. He's always around the ball and knows where the ball will be prior to the snap. Obviously when you have the number one recruit (Julio Jones) in the nation lined up on the other side of the ball, you either get better or it's going to be a long day. Robert has enough intestinal fortitude about him that he's not going to get beat too many times without putting up a fight. I think it's made both of them better."

The Stats: Lewis recorded 66 tackles, seven sacks and four forced fumbles his senior season.

Accolades: Lewis was awarded ASWA All-State honorable mention and Birmingham News All-Metro Dtfense as a defensive lineman, Alabama-Mississippi All-Star, Super All-Metro and team captain.

Strengths: "I would say my strengths are my pass rushing and run stopping skills."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to improve using my hands."

Projection: Coach Nick Saban likes his defensive ends big and athletic, and Lewis fits the mold. A redshirt is projected for his freshman season as playing a part of helping to build depth.

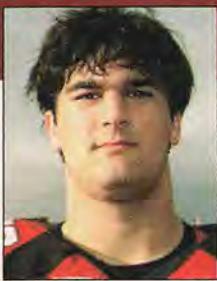
Additional Facts: "My uncle, Michael Myers, played there. He was an All-America defensive tackle for Alabama. I have always wanted to play for them."

Why Alabama? "I have been an Alabama fan and always wanted to go there. It was a no-brainer for me. I have been wanting to play there my whole life. Coach Saban has done a great job recruiting. He said the first thing is getting an education and playing football second. I think with our class, and the guys already there, we can win a national championship. I think we have the best class in the country. In a couple of years we are going to prove that to everyone."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Georgia, Ole Miss, Tennessee

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Lewis has a quick first step and shows good speed and athleticism coming off the edge. Lewis has a good motor and good at chasing down a player. He shows good pass rushing skills and uses his hands well. Lewis also has a nice inside move. He plays the run well and moves down the line nicely."

Pleasant Grove Head Coach Jim Elgin: "Obviously he's been a lot of fun to coach. He's a great kid. He comes from a good solid family background. He never missed a practice or anything of that nature. He always comes to work hard and puts in the extra time and effort. He's very coachable. His size and speed, for a kid that big strengths. He moves real well, runs fast. He wanted to go to Alabama from the get-go. He went to some camps early and kind of got on their radar. Coach (Kevin) Steele, who has been recruiting him, and Coach (Nick) Saban after signing day last year visited. Some of the things they saw him do on tape was that he had actually played running back for us as a sophomore, and wide receiver, so they saw the potential where he could run and move in space and do those kinds of things. I think that and his body type and his frame that kind of sold him on what he could do for them or what he would be able to help them with. He's big enough in their scheme where they can bump him down with the linebackers standing outside of him, and he can hold his own. He did some of that in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Game, but I think defensive end is where he's going to play."



TYLER LOVE

Offensive Tackle

Scout Rating: *****
Scout Rank: #6 OT
Size: 6-7, 270
Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama
 Mountain Brook High School

Scout.com

Accolades: All-State and ASWA Super 12. He was named to the Tampa Tribune's Best of the South Team, Orlando Sentinel Alabama offensive lineman of the Year, Class 6A Lineman of the Year ASWA, Mobile Press-Register Elite 18, and was number 31 on Press Register Super Southeast 120. The Birmingham News honored Love with Super All-Metro Parade Magazine All-American, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 OL.

Strengths: "My pass blocking has improved a lot from last year to this year and my footwork and my run blocking too."

Needs to Improve: "I need to improve on my explosion."

Additional Facts: Love grew up an Tide fan with parents as Alabama graduates.

Why Alabama? "The University of Alabama is not just a great place to play football, it's a great place to earn a degree. I chose Alabama because it bleeds tradition, and there is no other place like it."

Selected Alabama Over: Florida, Georgia

Projection: Love will begin his college career at tackle. Andre Smith is one of the nation's top tackles, and he'll continue as the starter on the left side for the Tide. Love has played left tackle, but will have an opportunity to compete early at right tackle.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Love has great size as an offensive tackle with great punch, and he locks down defensive rushers very quickly when he gets inside their body. He's aggressive off the ball and keeps his head on a swivel looking for a pancake and finds them early and often. Love moves well when pulling and is agile enough to keep faster players from simply running by him on the roll."

Mountain Brook Head Coach Chris Yeager: "Tyler's a very gifted athlete. God has blessed him with a lot of talent, but he's done a great job in developing the talent. He's done a great job while he's been here to reach his maximum potential. I just feel like he's going to continue to do that, and that's what is going to separate him from most players."

"He's got a lot of upside to grow. In college he'll put on 40-50 pounds. He's at 285 now. He'll end up being a 330-335-340, and you will be able to tell a whole bunch of difference before he really starts looking like an offensive lineman."

"His character is impeccable, but he is fairly quiet. He's very respectful and very humble too, which to me, says more than anything. I remember last year when he first started getting offers from all over the country he was really surprised. He is just a real humble young man."

"The thing that I think they (Alabama) will be getting will be a person who is going to have a wonderful athletic career. I think the most important thing is they are going to get a person who is never going to embarrass the program. He will always be a great ambassador for Alabama football."

"They aren't getting a player for four years. They are getting something way, way more valuable than that. I mean 20 years from now, Alabama will be benefiting from Tyler Love. You can just bank on that."

"I think he's got the ability to play as a freshman. He was in the Under Armour All-Star game, and I got to coach him in the game down in Orlando. I got to see him with other lineman. He is so coachable and so polished."



IVAN MATCHETT

Running Back

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #63 RB
Size: 5-10, 205, 4.6
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
 St. Paul's High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Matchett had 230 rushing attempts for 2,059 yards and 25 touchdowns. He averaged 8.95 yards yards per carry and 137.27 yards per game his senior season.

Accolades: ASWA first team all-state, Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18 and team captain.

Strengths: "I never think of myself when it comes to strengths, but people tell me I have good vision and balance. They tell me I have great cutback skills and great power."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to improve overall on getting better. I don't want any weaknesses. I don't want there to be any flaws. I want to be a perfect running back."

Why Alabama? "The reason I committed early was because there was no reason to wait around. I could go where I wanted to go. The coaches are real cool. I love the campus. I fell in love with the place. It is a real 'home' feeling. You can talk to them about anything. It's an honor to even be in this position. Some people don't even get this chance. I am grateful. I was able to choose to go to Alabama. Nick Saban's name speaks for itself. Alabama is definitely going in the right direction and I hope to be a part of a championship there."

Selected Alabama Over: Miami, Georgia Tech, Louisville

Projection: Matchett could become a "Tim Castille" type player in Alabama's offense. He doesn't have breakaway speed, but can break tackles and is a hard runner. He is a great short yardage running back.

Additional Facts: Matchett is one of three St. Paul's teammates who signed with The University of Alabama in the 2008 class (Mark Barron and Destin Hood the others). St. Paul's won the class 5A state championship in 2007.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Matchett is a powerful runner with a stocky frame and uses his lower body very well while running in the hole. Matchett is very explosive when he finds some daylight, and has good vision to get a cutback lane. Matchett has good balance, good yards after first contact, and can find the corner pretty well."

St. Paul's Head coach Mike Bates: "Ivan has been a leader of our team for a long time. He's an extremely hard runner. I think he has great vision as a running back. He catches the ball well out of the backfield. So he brings a lot more to the table than being able to run the football. He's very personable. All of our kids like Ivan a lot. He was voted team captain his senior year. He's got a lot of good qualities that you look for in a young man and a football player. I think his toughness running the football (is what the Tide staff likes). He gets a lot of yards after contact. He gets an awful lot of them."

"I think he chose Alabama because of the tradition and what he expects them to be in the future. I think he expects a lot of things, and they are going to be better. He wants to be a part of that."

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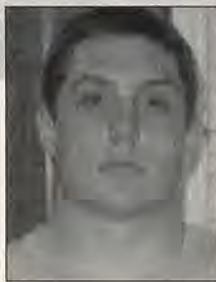
KERRY MURPHY

Defensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ****

Size: 6-6, 317, 5.3

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama
Hargrave Military Academy



WESLEY NEIGHBORS

Safety

Scout Rating: ***

Scout Rank: #47 S

Size: 6-2, 195, 4.55
Hometown: Huntsville, Alabama
Huntsville High School

The Stats: Murphy played on the offensive and defensive line during his post grad season at Hargrave. Murphy made a total 142 tackles and 16 sacks in junior and senior seasons at Hoover. He made 77 tackles, 13 tackles for loss and eight sacks during the senior season.

Accolades: Parade All-American as a senior at Hoover in 2006, Birmingham News All-Metro Team, rated as the top prospect on The Birmingham News Super Senior list, one of 11 defensive tackles on The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Super Southern 100, rated number three on the Mobile Press-Register's Super Southeast 120, selected to play in the 2006 Alabama North-South All-Star game.

Strengths: "I would have to say my biggest strength is my technique. I think once I get back in shape, and start rolling, there is no telling what I will be able to do."

Needs to Improve: "I would really like to improve my weight and strength before I get to Alabama."

Projection: Murphy should see immediate playing time in Tuscaloosa if he arrives in football shape. He was a dominating force at nose tackle for his junior season before having surgery prior to his senior year at Hoover. He is on track and losing weight and expects to contribute in the fall.

Why Alabama? "It was always Alabama for me. We are going to win a national championship at Alabama. I really love the new coaching staff. They came from the NFL, and I think they are going to do a great job. I didn't talk to Coach Saban much. He needed to worry about other recruits. He didn't need to worry about me because I was going to Alabama. I did talk to Coach (Kevin) Steele a lot."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Miami

Additional Facts: Murphy has been at Hargrave Military Academy this past year after failing to qualify academically with his signing class of 2007. He helped lead Hoover to the Class 6A state title his sophomore and junior season.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Murphy is a gifted athlete for his size and unstoppable when the weight is under control. He is a hard worker and can become one of college football's premier defensive linemen. The potential is certainly there, and he will have the choice to live up to it."

Former Hoover Defensive Line Coach Chris Davis: "Kerry has unlimited potential. He may be the best ever prospect we have had at Hoover since I have been here and that includes Chad Jackson. You're not going to find many defensive linemen that are athletic as Kerry. He can do several back-flips in a row. That's unreal for a guy his size. He had excellent sophomore and junior seasons. He had knee surgery before his senior season and that kind of slowed him down. He still had a great year. Most teams we played against were double and triple teaming him each play, so he didn't have the stats that he would normally have."

The Stats: Neighbors had 62 tackles during his senior season.

Accolades: Neighbors was named an honorable mention ASWA all-state defensive back. The senior also represented Alabama in the Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game and was a member of the Mobile Press-Register's Elite 18.

Strengths: "I would have to say my aggressiveness, my ability to get off blocks and hit people. I read plays well, and I know where the ball is."

Needs to Improve: "My flexibility, my loose man coverage and my technique. I believe better technique helps everyone improve as a defensive back."

Projection: Neighbors will likely redshirt his freshman year.

Why Alabama? "It has always been my dream to play there. Since I was a young kid I have always dreamed of playing for Alabama. I've had four members of my family play at Alabama, so it means a lot to me. They have what I'm looking for in an education as well. Expectations are through the roof this year. I believe they can be reached with the coaching staff and the players that are there, and the ones coming in. The facilities are awesome, and they're still working on them. I can't imagine anything any better."

Selected Alabama Over: Georgia Tech, LSU, Vanderbilt

Additional Facts: His grandfather, Billy Neighbors, was an All-America at Alabama (1959-61) and then played 11 seasons in the NFL. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2004. Wesley's brother, Wes, played at Alabama (1983-85) and also was drafted by the NFL. Wesley is eligible to enter Alabama on a Bryant Scholarship.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Neighbors is very aggressive and has a nose for the ball. He understands how to wrap up in tackling. He has been well coached at the high school level."

Huntsville Coach Kevin Wieseman: "It's been a great pleasure and honor to be associated with him and his family. A great football family as we all know grandfather and father and now the third generation, Wesley, is going to Alabama."

"Wesley is of the highest character. He was voted our team captain again this year, permanent team captain. He was voted permanent team captain last year as a junior, which is the first time in my 15 years associated with Huntsville High School that a junior has been voted team captain."

"He's respected by his teammates at all levels, and somebody that you know is going to give 100 per cent every time he's out there."

"I really see somebody, and I'm not saying other players are committed or not committed, but I think he truly understands what it means to be an Alabama football player. He understands what it means to grow up in the state being a football player at a major university is."

"When it comes to the fourth quarter he is out on the field, and he understands the importance of finishing the game. Leadership, desire, making sure the task is complete are Wesley's strengths."



JERMAINE PREYEAR

Running Back

Scout Rating: ***
Scout Rank: #82 RB
Size: 5-11, 195
Hometown: Mobile, Alabama
 Davidson High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Preyear rushed for 1,020 yards on 126 carries his senior season. He caught eight passes for 142 yards and one touchdown.

Accolades: Mobile Press-Register Elite 18 honorable mention.

Strengths: Preyear has excellent speed and vision.

Needs to Improve: He will need to improve his durability and tackle breaking ability.

Projection: Preyear has good speed and is a very tough running back when healthy. He will need a redshirt season at Alabama before becoming a contributor in the Tide's offense.

Additional Facts: Preyear suffered a shoulder injury slowing him down during his senior season. He was held to no-contact during practice, but went full speed every game.

Why Alabama? "I went to other colleges, but it wasn't like Alabama. It will be nice not being that far from the house. Mom will be able to come to the games. I really liked their Academic Center. The coaches showed me how serious they are about academics. I liked that. The facilities were great."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Florida State, Tennessee

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Preyear has the ability to be a power runner for the Tide and is best running between the tackles. He also gives Alabama a nice option with good hands and can remain in the lineup for the run or pass. The University's strength and conditioning program will benefit Preyear's prior injury."

Davidson Head Coach Fred Riley: "When he was not hurt, I thought he reminded me when he was at his best of Ken Darby when he was at his best. Jermaine is the same height, the same weight, they are the same build, the same low center of gravity and do the same type things. I think Jermaine's best football is ahead of him as he grows and develops as a college player, and for us he was probably never as good as he could have been because he stayed hurt. It hurt him statistically. He had a shoulder injury. He is 100 per cent now. He's going to be a good player."

"He is a little bit of a character. He's not afraid of the limelight. He's not afraid of being in front of people. He will be a good interview when he gets there. He grew up in the shadow of some really good players here for a couple of years, and he grew up this year in terms of leadership and tried to carry the offense on his back some this year which I was proud to watch him grow into that role."

"He has matured a great deal, and he's a yes-sir, no-sir kid. I think he will be a credit to The University. I think just in talking to Alabama they are looking, just like we all are, for a running back who will be physical and run violently between the tackles."

"When Darby was at his best he was that kind of back. To get the hard yards that will convert third and three, but also has good enough ability, ball skills to catch the ball out of the backfield. I can promise you this: he knows how to work."



MELVIN RAY

Wide Receiver

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #45 WR
Size: 6-3, 205, 4.5
Hometown: Tallahassee, Florida
 North Florida Christian

Scout.com

The Stats: Ray recorded 58 catches, 1,300 yards and 16 touchdowns during his senior season. He finished his junior season with 36 catches for 518 yards and five touchdowns. He also returned 11 kickoffs for 274 yards and one touchdown and returned five punts for 160 yards and two scores.

Accolades: Ray was voted all-state first team by the FSWA at wide receiver for the 1A class, All Big Bend Team (all classes), and named by the Tallahassee Democrat first team wide receiver.

Strengths: "I think definitely I am strong off of the line. Not many guys can jam me off the line of scrimmage. Probably my biggest strength is my strength and speed. That and my quickness and hands."

Needs to Improve: "I need more upper body strength. Even though I am noted as a physical receiver, I am no where near where I can be."

Projection: Ray will have a chance to contribute as a freshman, but he will possibly receive a redshirt.

Why Alabama? "I know Coach Saban is a winner. I love the atmosphere, the fans and the stadium. Everyone loves it there. Everything is first class. I can get lazy sometimes like all athletes. You have no choice but to take care of your academics. That was really important to me and to my parents. It will become natural to work on my academics and play ball."

Selected Alabama Over: Florida, Florida State, LSU

Additional Facts: Ray transferred to North Florida Christian from Chiles for his senior season. He is a Major League Baseball prospect and hopes to also play for Alabama Baseball Coach Jim Wells. Ray made one of the top 10 plays of the day on ESPN for a one-handed catch touchdown in their state championship game.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Ray is a bigger receiver who runs great routes. He is physical and great in the air. Ray shows excellent concentration and body control. He has good speed and better quickness. Ray can make you miss in the open field, run with some power and run by you. He also will catch in traffic and go over the middle. Ray also excels in returning punts and kickoffs."

North Florida Christian Coach Tim Cokeley: "His speed is his strength. He's a big, tall, fast receiver. He's an engaging person. He is a high character guy. He's a very hard worker, good kid. He's a leader on campus. He's just a natural leader."

"I'm sure he's going to be their (Alabama) speed wideout who plays on the outside, the guy they like to get deep. Melvin's maturity is going to let him come in and compete for playing time as a freshman, if he stays healthy."

"In my experience, and I've done this a long time, is that it comes down to how a kid prepares his legs in the summer, and his maturity level. It's so different if you don't have some maturity. It's harder to get on the field, but Melvin's maturity is really going to help him. He is a good teammate, and I think if he stays healthy I think he will play this fall."



BURTON SCOTT

Athlete

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #7 CB
Size: 5-10/190/4.4
Hometown: Prichard, Alabama
Vigor High School

The Stats: Scott finished his senior season with 917 yards rushing with nine touchdowns and 834 yards passing and another eight touchdowns. He had over 2,000 all-purpose yards with his return yardage. These numbers include a two game absence where Scott had to sit out due to an injury.

Accolades: Mobile Press-Register Elite 18, number 21 on Mobile Press-Register Super Southeast 120, ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama, Under Armour All-Star Game (Orlando), Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 as Athlete.

Strengths: "I'm very versatile. I can make people miss and am the type of wide receiver that can take a hitch or slant and turn it into a big play. I don't need to catch a big bomb to score."

Needs to Improve: "I just want to keep getting bigger and stronger. I don't think that I have any weaknesses. I run with power and have great quickness. Every position I play I go full speed."

Projected Position: Scott is a wild card because he can play numerous positions. He could start out at receiver and move to cornerback. He may see playing time on both sides of the ball. He is an instant impact player.

Why Alabama? "I chose Alabama because I will have a chance to come in and play early. I had opportunities at other schools, but I could come in the fastest at Alabama and play right away."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Florida, Florida State

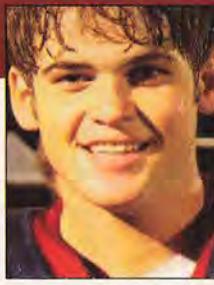
Additional Facts: Scott has a 40-inch vertical jump. He maintains a 3.0 GPA.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "B.J. Scott is one of the best athletes in the country. He is very quick and strong, using his advantages to make defenders miss when he is on offense and being a punishing tackler on defense."

Vigor High School Head Coach Kerry Stevenson: "He's a truly, truly special kid. Not just talented. He has a big personality. He doesn't meet a stranger, he's a really respectful person, and a heck of a football player. A lot of people look at him and think he's arrogant, but he's just a hard-working kid who believes in himself. He'll be successful because he is going to work his tail off. He believes if he outworks you he will always have a chance to come out on top. And that, he definitely will do. He will outwork you."

"He'll be successful wherever he plays, offense or defense. He is going to be successful whether he plays receiver or defensive back because he is talented."

"A lot of times he's had requests, and he's had kids writing him and wanting him to sign cards and pictures. He always signs them and sends them back. He loves that part of it also. You can't go wrong with B.J. Scott. He's not going to hold back. He's going to work to win, and he's going to make sure you're working your tail off too. He came in as an eighth grader for me, and in his 10th grade year I asked him to be a team leader because we didn't have anybody else to do it."



BRAD SMELLEY

Athlete

Scout Rating: **
Scout Rank: #194 WR
Size: 6-3, 215
Hometown: Tuscaloosa, Alabama
American Christian Academy

The Stats: Smelley threw for 3,022 yards and 33 touchdowns as a senior. He also rushed for 626 yards and 13 touchdowns. He added 124 tackles on defense.

Accolades: Smelley was selected All-State by the ASWA as their athlete for class 2A. Smelley was named West Alabama All-Star by The Tuscaloosa News and 2A Player of the Year.

Strengths: "I'd say my strengths are having football instincts and knowing how to manage the game at quarterback and having good accuracy, and as a receiver/H-back it would be great routes and hands."

Needs to improve: "I hope to get stronger and faster this off-season."

Projection: Smelley might see the field early on special teams, but projects as receiver/h-back. If he redshirts as a freshman, he might get work at quarterback.

Additional Facts: Smelley plays shortstop for American Christian batting .511 for his junior season with 11 home runs. His brother, Chris, plays quarterback for the University of South Carolina. "They (Brad and Chris) are good boys," father Bart Smelley said. "They are both where they want to be. Chris is where he wants to be up at South Carolina, and Brad is where he wants to go. Down the road I really don't know what we are going to do with both of them playing for different schools. It is very exciting for us though."

Why Alabama? "Alabama was where I wanted to be. I like Coach Saban a lot. He seems like a great guy, and I know he is a great coach."

Selected Alabama Over: South Carolina

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Smelley is a terrific athlete who was recruited to play H-back. He has great knowledge of the game, but will need to get stronger and could become an early contributor on special teams. He is underrated due to playing several positions on his high school team which is a true asset for the next level"

American Christian Head Coach Stephen Hooks: "Alabama is getting a lot of players this year who can play a lot of different positions, but there's probably not anybody more versatile than Brad has been in high school. A lot of that just flows out of his drive to compete and his tenacity. So on the defensive side of the ball we've played him everywhere from a stand-up D-end to an outside rush linebacker to middle linebacker to our strong safety/free safety/corner."

"He's such a force to be reckoned with that we tried to use him in a way where we could always match him up with whoever the best athlete was on the other side of the ball. I think that the thing that drew Coach (Nick) Saban to him was the fact that he's a football player, very physical, very tenacious and a competitor. He's a great young man and has sterling character, and he plays out of that. He's very quiet now. He doesn't say a whole lot. He's a fierce competitor, but he didn't talk or run his mouth."

"He's going to give you everything that he's got, and he's going to elevate the level of play of those around him."



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COREY SMITH

Kicker/Punter

Scout Rating: **
Scout Rank: #22 K
Size: 6-0, 190
Hometown: Bunker Hill, West Virginia
 Musselman High School



DAMIAN SQUARE

Defensive Tackle

Scout Rating: ****
Scout Rank: #9 SLB
Size: 6-3, 275, 4.75
Hometown: Houston, Texas
 Yates High School

The Stats: Smith hit 16 of 16 PATs, 13 of 18 field goals (distances of 22, 22, 32, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 46, 48, 50, 51, 59); 29 touchbacks; 35 punts for a 39.1 yard average with a long of 67, nine inside the 20.

Accolades: Smith won longest kick-off at the National Kicking Service Camp in Westminster, Maryland, won the Chad Brock Memorial award for Special Teams MVP 200 and 2006, named all-state honorable mention as sophomore. Smith ranked top sophomore at the National Kicking Expo. He received the number one ranking in kicking among sophomores, and number one ranking in kickoffs among sophomores. Smith had sixth highest score at the combine out of over 100 contestants.

Smith was named the top junior punter in the iplayers.com semi-finals combine series averaging nearly 50 yards a punt with 4-second hang. For 2006 (junior year) he was selected to the All-Journal news first team, All Herald first team, all-state second team as punter, all-state special mention as kicker, All Gameday Team for Region in kicking and punting, won the National Championship for varsity punters in the iplayers National Finals, placed number two junior overall at the 2007 Scout.com Expo.

Additional Facts: Smith broke two state records in his senior season-longest field goal and most in a season and selected all-state first team. The night of shattering the state record of the longest field goal of 59-yards his teammates were celebrating in the locker room after the game to the music of "Sweet Home Alabama." Smith hit the game winning field goal with no time on the clock and hit four field goals (22, 50, 48, 41) and one PAT and six touchbacks. He has 60-yard field goal range. Long-time soccer, basketball and track and field participant. Smith is a 4.0 student.

Strengths: "For most people it is difficult to do both (punting and kicking), because of the different leg swings, but I think I can do it. I know it's going to be hard, but that's my goal. The coaches have told me I have the potential to do it."

Needs to Improve: "Consistency is the difficult part. I need to start being more consistent in both punting and kicking."

Why Alabama? "As soon as I got there I knew that is where I wanted to be. We looked around, and I loved it. I don't know how to describe it. They have great facilities, and the weather is great. Coach Saban is a great coach. He has proven success in college. It's a number of things that I like about Alabama. Coach Saban is a great recruiter. He is all about business on the field. He is really turning things around. Everyone agrees it's going to be really good."

Selected Alabama Over: West Virginia

College Projection: Smith will likely redshirt his freshman season due to junior kicker Leigh Tiffin, Andrew Friedman and punter P.J. Fitzgerald.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Smith is an excellent kicker with a strong leg and is very accurate. His statistics averages do not reflect an outstanding distance due to numerous pooch kicks. He will begin his career at Alabama as a kick-off and field goal kicker. He could also serve time as a punter. Smith moved into Bryant Hall in January and will get a jump start to next football season by practicing in the spring."

The Stats: Square recorded 21 sacks and 92 tackles his senior season.

Accolades: All-State, Sports Illustrated All-America, Texas Mr. Football runner-up, Greater Houston Defensive Player of the Year, District MVP.

Strengths: "I have been coached by great people who know the game. They have taught me a lot, and it has helped me know where to make plays before they happen."

Needs to Improve: "I would like to improve my strength and endurance. I want to become more consistent and also improve in the classroom."

Projection: Square will begin his career at defensive tackle. He is very quick, extremely strong and could see playing time as a freshman.

Why Alabama? "I chose Alabama because I know in the near future we are going to win a national championship. I decided Alabama was the best place for me a little bit after I left from their campus. I came home, thought about it, and decided that was my spot."

"I love how hard they work at Alabama. My high school plays the exact system. We even run the same type stunts, and I think I will be ahead of some people. Coach (Nick) Saban played a major factor as well. Coach Saban is a good dude. He is straight-forward. He talks straight business. It won't take him long. I want to be a part of that program, era and national championship. I can see the athletes in this class, and that's why I can see a national championship coming soon."

Selected Alabama Over: Texas A&M

Additional Facts: Square originally committed to Texas A&M. He de-committed during the summer prior to his senior season and before attending Alabama's summer camp.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Square can put his hand down or play outside linebacker. Square has good size, speed, quickness and athletic ability. He uses his hands well to disengage and find the ball. Square has nice closing speed and plays with discipline. He is equally adept at playing the run and rushing the quarterback."

Yates Assistant Head Coach Jeff Caesar: "He has a great knowledge of the game. He's a kid that is capable of going in and playing as a freshman, and he has big play capability in him. He's a great kid. In the four years that I had him I never had a problem with him. Never had an issue with him. He always worked hard to strive to do the best that he could on and off the field. He came in, and he had aspirations to be good. He was very attentive, and he had a good knowledge of the game of football. He was self-motivated in that sense and all you had to do is show him and get him going in the right direction. He had leadership ability and skills also. I see a great future for him at the next level."



COURTNEY UPSHAW

Linebacker

Scout Rating: ****

Scout Rank: #18 DE

Size: 6-2, 225

Hometown: Eufaula, Alabama
Eufaula High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Upshaw had 45 solo tackles, 20 assists playing defensive end in a 4-3 defense during his senior season. He made 13 tackles for a loss, seven sacks, three fumbles caused, six fumble recoveries with two returned for touchdowns. Upshaw had 20 receptions for 296 yards and three touchdowns as a tight end on offense.

Accolades: ASWA first team all-state defensive lineman, Mobile Press-Register Elite 18, Under Armour All-Star Game (Orlando), Press-Register Super Southeast 120 at number 35, ScoutSouth.com Star of Alabama, Orlando Sentinel All-Southern Team Alabama defensive end, Atlanta Journal-Constitution Super Southern 100 defensive end, Alabama-Mississippi All-Star game.

Strengths: "I would say my strengths are rushing the quarterback, making sacks and tackles. I do my job. I like to be around the ball even if I don't make the tackle. I am always running to the play."

Needs to Improve: "I am going to try to improve my speed and get stronger before next season."

Why Alabama? "I like everything about Alabama. I really like Coach Saban and Coach Smart. I like everyone at the school and the fans. I just love the school in general."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, LSU

Additional Facts: Upshaw did not begin playing football until his junior year of high school.

Projection: Upshaw has the tools as an instant impact player as a freshman. He was recruited to play the Jack linebacker position, but could play on the outside.

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Upshaw should develop into an elite player on the next level. He has a great work ethic, incredible quickness and strength. He should make an impact in his first season in Tuscaloosa."

Eufaula Head Coach Dan Klages: "He's made it easy as far as being a superstar-type player and not requiring any extra special attention. We haven't had to treat him any differently than anybody else. Not that we would anyway. He's just one of the guys. The recruiting was not a distraction to any of these other players; in fact, I think they kind of enjoyed the extra attention, too. Maybe some of them have gotten a look or two from colleges because of Courtney being here. I think they are mature enough to realize that too. What's good for one is good for the rest of us. He is the highest recruited player I've ever coached."

"I was proud of the way he played in the (Under Armour Orlando) All-Star game too. I think he played every defensive snap for the Red team."

"I've told him that 'You've got certain physical skills that will help you be the player that you are. What makes you Courtney Upshaw is the fact that you play so intensely. Not many people can match the effort and intensity that you play with, and it doesn't matter whether the ball was coming at you or whether it's a pass or a run. If the ball is run back up inside or even to the other side of the field, you are going to give the same effort to get to the football and there are not many kids that will do that. If you ever stop doing that you may lose your real magic.'

"He's a tough kid. Obviously playing both ways in the league we're in there's several times-practice, games—he was banged up. I don't even remember him even coming to the training room for two years. He's a tough kid. I think that will serve him well on the next level. He may grow into a Wallace Gilberry-type body."

EDITOR'S NOTE: ScoutSouth.com's Rebecca Johnston and Tim Gilbreath contributed to these reports.



MICHAEL WILLIAMS

Defensive End/Tight End

Scout Rating: ****

Scout Rank: #17 DE

Size: 6-6, 240, 4.7

Hometown: Reform, Alabama
Pickens County High School

Scout.com

The Stats: Williams had 12 receptions for over 400 yards and five touchdowns. The fleet-footed Williams also ran two reverses scoring an 82-yard touchdown and the other resulting in a big gain. Overall he ran the ball five times for 243 yards and two touchdowns. Williams had 63 tackles and 14 sacks on defense.

Accolades: Class 2A Lineman of the Year finalist and all-state.

Strengths: "My strengths are recognizing plays and using my size as an advantage."

Needs to Improve: "I need to improve my strength and hands."

Projection: Williams is a terrific athlete and has the potential to become an All-SEC player. He will get his first look at tight end.

Additional Facts: Williams only played in the first half in five of the team's 12 games due to big leads. Williams was the first high school commitment for the class of 2008.

Why Alabama? "When you grow up and go to Bama games it just stuck with me. When I received the offer I knew that was where I wanted to go. It's been a dream of mine ever since I was young to play at Alabama. It's only 30 miles away. I like how there is someone like Coach Saban there who has been in the pros. I want to experience something like that. He said he was going to take over Alabama. He has done that. Once we get everything rolling Alabama will be back on top."

Selected Alabama Over: Auburn, Georgia Tech, Clemson

Scout Recruiting Analyst Andrew Bone: "Williams is extremely athletic and has the potential to become one of the best overall prospects in the class."

Pickens County Offensive Coordinator Russ Wallace: "He's as good a kid as you'd ever want to be around. He's been raised right. His mother's done a real good job with him. He's a very respectful young man. He's been our backbone on offense and defense for three years now. He played tight end for us and defensive end. Alabama is getting a good one, no doubt about that."

"I think Alabama is going to get a kid that is going to be a leader on and off the field. His character is unquestioned. He's the type of kid you want in your program. He will be a positive influence and role model for young kids, and be a positive influence on guys that are there."

"I think they are going to have an All-SEC type of a player no matter what side of the ball they play him on. I think he's got the potential and the attitude that he may walk out of there as one of the greatest tight ends that ever played there. I honestly believe that."

"He's made some one-handed catches. He's made some catches where the ball has been tipped up, and he's followed it all the way down to the ground and made the catch. For a guy that is 6-6, and he's up to 270 now, a guy that is that big to have the hands, and the touch, and the feel that he's got you don't see that all the time. I think another thing that makes him exceptional on the offensive side of the ball is that he can move."

"He's put on 25-30 pounds of muscle in a year and a half. So they are already going to get a kid to come in there physically ready to play at that level."

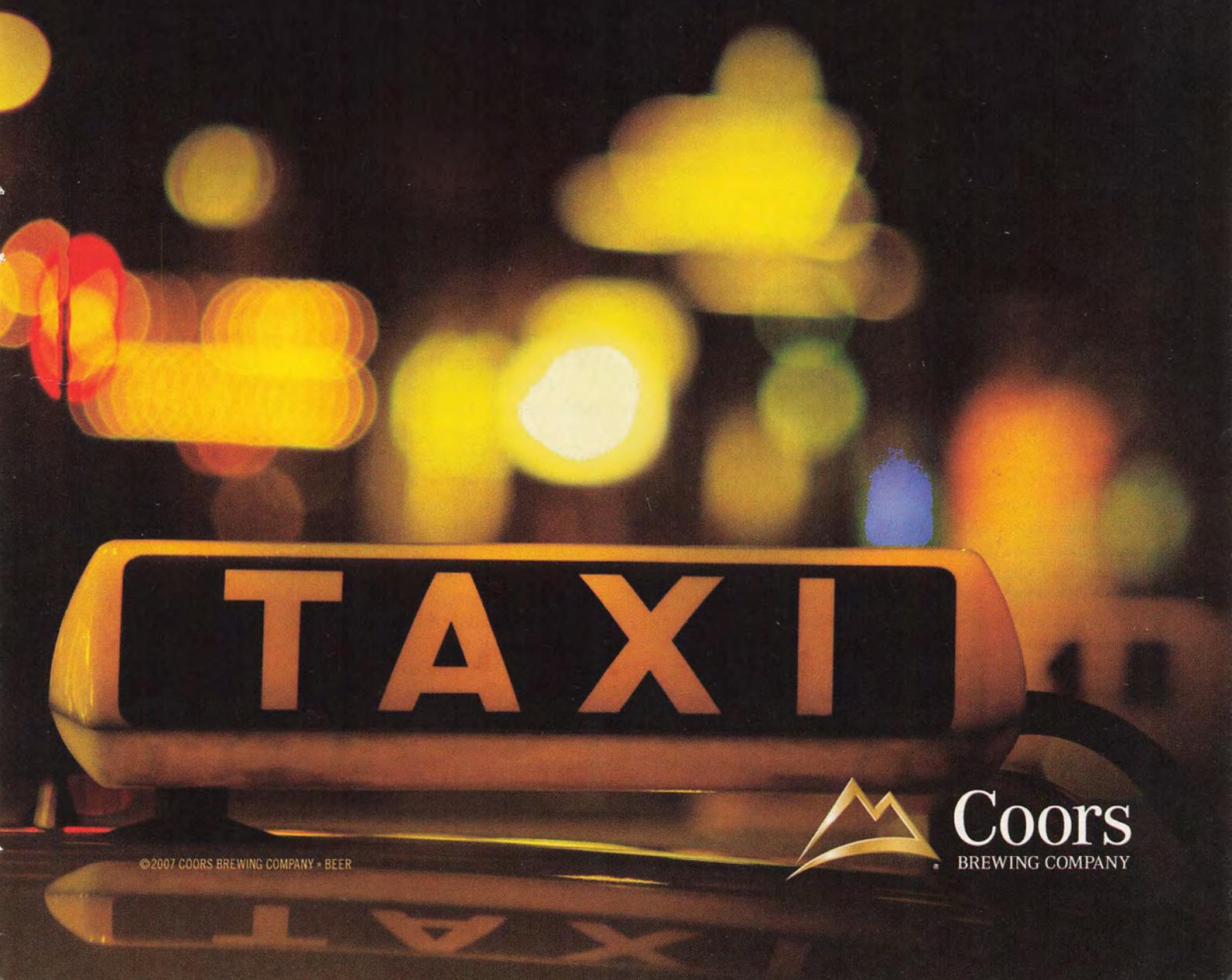
FOOTBALL HOT LIST

2009 Alabama Football Prospects

Andrew Bone of 'BAMA Magazine and the staff of Scout Media have already identified a large number of upcoming high school seniors who will be prospects for the Signing Class of 2009. This list can be expected to change.

Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Time	Hometown (High School)
Kenyatta Abernathy	S	6-1	201	4.6	Tuscaloosa (Deshler)
Kenny Bell	WR	6-1	170	4.4	Rayville, La.
Jheranie Boyd	WR	6-3	180	4.45	Gastonia, N.C. (Ashbrook)
Marlon Brown	WR	6-5	205	4.5	Memphis (Harding Acad.)
Alex Buford	S	5-11	175	4.5	Thomasville
Terrence Coleman	DE	6-1	230	4.7	Mobile (Williamson)
Chris Davenport	DE	6-5	320	5.2	Mansfield, La.
Craig Drummond,	DE	6-5	260	N/A	Chicago (Morgan Park)
Jonathan Edwards	CB	5-9	185	4.5	Tuscaloosa (Central)
Johnnie Farms	OG	6-2	280	N/A	Perry, Ga.
Eric Fields	LB	6-0	200	N/A	Warner-Robbins, Ga. (Northside)
D.J. Fluker	DE	6-6	327	4.9	Foley
Michael Ford	RB	5-10	210	4.56	Leesville, La.
Stephon Gilmore	S	6-0	180	4.5	Rock Hill, S.C. (South Pointe)
Eric Gordon	CB	5-11	186	4.4	Nashville (Hillsboro)
Javen Harris	LB	6-1	220	4.6	Eufaula
Alvin Hines	S	6-0	195	4.5	Pelham
Mardrecas Hood	WR	6-3	180	4.5	Reform (Pickens Co.)
Alsoun Jeffery	WR	6-4	200	N/A	St. Matthews, S.C. (Calhoun Co.)
Nico Johnson	LB	6-2	230	4.6	Andalusia
Abry Jones	DE	6-4	250	N/A	Warner-Robbins, Ga. (Northside)
Jarvis Jones	LB	6-3	205	4.55	Columbus, Ga. (Carver)
Kendall Kelly	WR	6-4	205	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Prince Kent	S	6-2	195	4.6	Norcross, Ga.
Dre Kirkpatrick	CB	6-3	180	4.5	Gadsden (Gadsden City)
Drew Little	QB	6-5	240	N/A	McDonough, Ga. (Henry Co.)
Austin Long	OT	6-5	270	N/A	Memphis (Briarcrest Christian)
A.J. McCarron	QB	6-4	180	4.8	Mobile (St. Paul's)
Lamar Miller	RB	5-11	205	4.32	Miami (Killian)
William Ming	DE	6-4	230	4.7	Athens
Barkevious Mingo	LB	6-4	200	4.6	West Monroe, La.
Sam Montgomery	DE	6-4	220	N/A	Greenwood, S.C.
Clint Moseley	QB	6-4	196	4.7	Leroy
Anthony Orr	DE	6-4	261	4.8	Harvest (Sparkman)
Tana Patrick	LB	6-4	220	4.6	Stevenson (North Jackson)
Rueben Randle	WR	6-3	195	4.5	Bastrop, La.
Tyler Russell	QB	6-4	200	N/A	Meridian, Miss.
Russell Shepard	QB	6-2	180	4.5	Houston (Cypress Ridge)
Tim Simon	RB	6-2	200	4.5	Dordova
Mikey Tamburo	QB	6-1	178	4.6	Sewanee, Ga. (North Gwinnett)
Donavan Tate	S	6-3	195	4.5	Cartersville, Ga.
Olivier Vernon	DE	6-2	225	4.6	Hialeah, Fla. (American)
D.J. Vinson	RB	6-0	190	4.6	Pinson (Clay-Chalkville)
Gerald West	CB	5-10	170	4.45	Mobile (Davidson)

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Coaching Changes

Saban adds something old, something new

Alabama Football Coach Nick Saban didn't attempt to hide his dissatisfaction with media coverage of his search for an offensive coordinator. When Major Applewhite left the Bama staff for a position at Texas, Saban had the second opening of the winter on his staff. Previously Ron Middleton, who had been tight ends coach and coordinator of special teams at Bama, left the Tide staff for Duke.

Although moves by both Applewhite and Middleton seemed downward, there were extenuating circumstances for both. Applewhite, who had been offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach and play-caller at Bama, went to Texas as an assistant head coach and running backs coach. But he was returning to his alma mater. Middleton going to Duke is hardly a recommended move for longevity, but he added the title of associate head coach and went to work for new Blue Devils Coach David Cutcliffe, the former head coach at Ole Miss where Middleton had been on his staff.

Saban said he attempted to keep both coaches, but said he would never stand in the way of an assistant taking a better job.

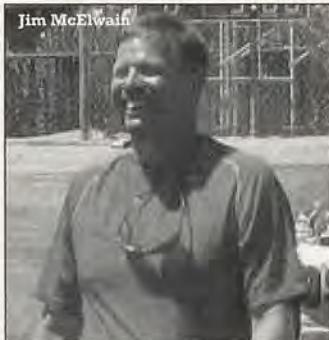
Saban had no trouble replacing Middleton. Bobby Williams was available, and Williams seems to join Saban at every opportunity.

Although there were suggestions that Saban was "having trouble" getting an offensive coordinator, nothing could have been further from the truth. Alabama's head coach just wasn't getting the ones the media thought he was after. No journalists were trying to get it wrong. They were just trying to get it first, and mistakes were made.

(Full disclosure: 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair heard from a very reliable source that Saban had offered the job to Georgia Southern Coach Chris Hatcher. When sports radio veteran Scott Moore reported he had the same information from a different source, that "news" was reported at BamaMag.com. Later Saban said he never talked to Hatcher.)

Finally the announcement was made. And it was made in what is perhaps an unprecedented testament to the man chosen by Saban. The greatly-respected Fresno State Head Coach Pat Hill called a press conference to thank Jim McElwain for his service to Fresno State and to wish him well as he moved on to Alabama as offensive coordinator.

While coaches from coast to coast had been rumored as being offered the job, Saban revealed that he had talked to many coaches and had even interviewed a few. But he had offered the



job to only one: McElwain.

McElwain served as the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Fresno State last year after spending the 2006 season in the NFL as quarterbacks coach for the Oakland Raiders. McElwain made an immediate impact in his first season at Fresno State as he helped lead the Bulldogs to a 9-4 record, a significant turnaround from the previous year in which Fresno State posted a 4-8 mark.

"Jim is a phenomenal coach and we are thrilled to have him on board," said Saban. "He did an outstanding job last year at Fresno State. Their improvement on offense, especially in the play of their quarterback, was tremendous. They had an impressive showing offensively against a very good Georgia Tech defense in their bowl win. In terms of production, they upped their offensive numbers significantly compared to the previous year. He's worked with some great coaches including Pat Hill, John L. Smith and Scott Linehan. He also brings NFL experience working with quarterbacks, which is another big plus."

McElwain's offense at Fresno State averaged 419.5 yards per game (38th nationally) and 32.9 points per game (32nd) last season. That was a significant increase from the 2006 campaign when the Bulldogs averaged 338.2 yards and 23.0 points per game. His quarterback, Tom Brandstater, finished 2007 with a passing efficiency rating of 140.5, which ranked 23rd in the country. Brandstater showed remarkable improvement under McElwain's watch as he had posted a pass efficiency rating of 106.7 (89th) the previous year.

"I'm excited as heck about the opportunity to join the staff at the University of Alabama," said McElwain. "Coach Saban and his staff have the Alabama football program on the rise and I want to do my part to continue that momentum."

McElwain served as the assistant head coach, receivers coach and special teams coach at Michigan State from 2003-05. The 2003 team reached the Alamo Bowl behind a receiving corps that set school records for receptions (312) and yards (3,510). He coached 2004 All-America punter Brandon Fields and kicker Dave Rayner, who led the Big Ten Conference in scoring. In 2005, five Spartan receivers had at least 28 receptions and the group combined to a set another school record with 24 touchdown catches.

"Jim is a great coach and I think he's going to be an outstanding head coach one day," said Fresno State's Hill.

Prior to his stint at Michigan State, McElwain spent three seasons (2000-02) at Louisville as the receivers coach and special teams coach as the Cardinals earned bowl bids in each of those three seasons. He coached four first team All-Conference USA selections at Louisville and also tutored three of the Cardinals' all-time leading receivers, including Deion

Branch and Arnold Jackson.

From 1995-99, McElwain was the offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and receivers coach at Montana State. Under his direction, quarterback Rob Compson threw for nearly 7,000 career yards and a school-record 54 touchdowns. McElwain also coached the Bobcats' all-time leading receiver Chip Hobbs, who caught 144 career passes for 2,060 yards and 18 TDs. Montana State led the Big Sky Conference in scoring in 1998, averaging 31.6 points per game.

McElwain was at Eastern Washington from 1985-94 in a variety of capacities, starting as a graduate assistant and working his way up to quarterbacks and receivers coach. The Eagles made two NCAA Division I-AA playoff appearances (1992 and 1995) and earned a share of the Big Sky Championship in 1992. McElwain coached EWU's all-time leading receiver, Tony Brooks (2,969 career yards), who earned third team AP All-America honors in 1993.

An all-state quarterback at Missoula (Montana) Sentinel High School, McElwain played quarterback at Eastern Washington from 1980-83 and earned his degree in Education from EWU in 1984. He and his wife, Karen, have three children, JoHanna, Elizabeth and Jerrett.

Saban's selection of Bobby Williams to join the Bama staff caught almost no one by surprise. Williams joins Saban's coaching staff for the fourth time in his career. Williams and Saban have worked together in the college ranks at Michigan State and LSU and in the NFL with the Miami Dolphins.

"Bobby Williams was the first guy I called when this position opened," said Saban. "I've coached with Bobby for a number of years and he is as good as there is in this business. Not only is he a great coach and a great teacher, he is also an excellent recruiter and is very well respected by the players he coaches."

Williams spent the 2005 and 2006 seasons as the running backs coach with the Dolphins.

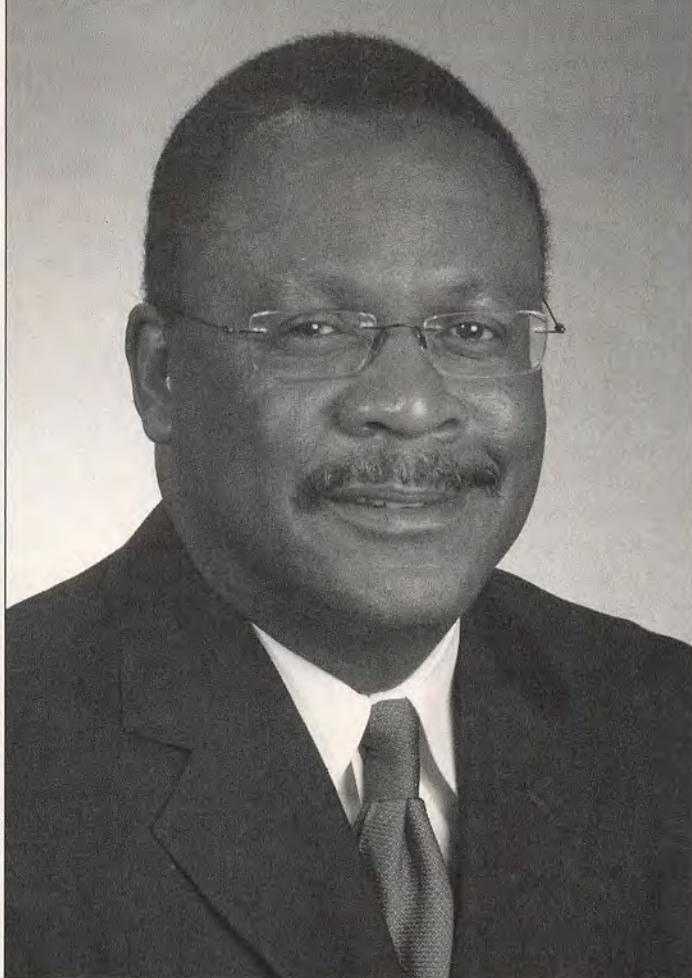
He served as the associate head coach and wide receivers coach at LSU in 2004 after spending the 2003 season as the wide receivers coach with the Detroit Lions. He was the head coach at Michigan State from 2000-02, leading the Spartans to a pair of bowl victories. Williams was an assistant at MSU from 1990-99 before being named the Spartans' head coach in December 1999.

"I'm very excited to be a part of the Alabama football program," said Williams. "The tradition, the history, and the passion here at Alabama are what college football is all about."

A graduate of Purdue, Williams was a four-year letterman for the Boilermakers. He started his career at running back before moving to the secondary and starting in his final three seasons. A tri-captain as a senior in 1981, Williams was a part of three bowl teams as a player.

Saban had also addressed the possibility of losing his defensive coordinator, Kevin Steele. As of this writing Steele and all other on-the-field coaches remained, but Director of Player Personnel Geoff Collins had taken a job as linebackers coach at Central Florida.

Bobby Williams



University of Alabama

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Building Continues

Spring practice prime factor in fall success

Alabama's extraordinary recruiting class invited conjecture as to which incoming players might earn playing time, even starting jobs in the fall. That may happen. But for the next few weeks, most of the 2008 signees will be on the back burner working on their requirements for high school graduation, and hopefully doing some conditioning work.

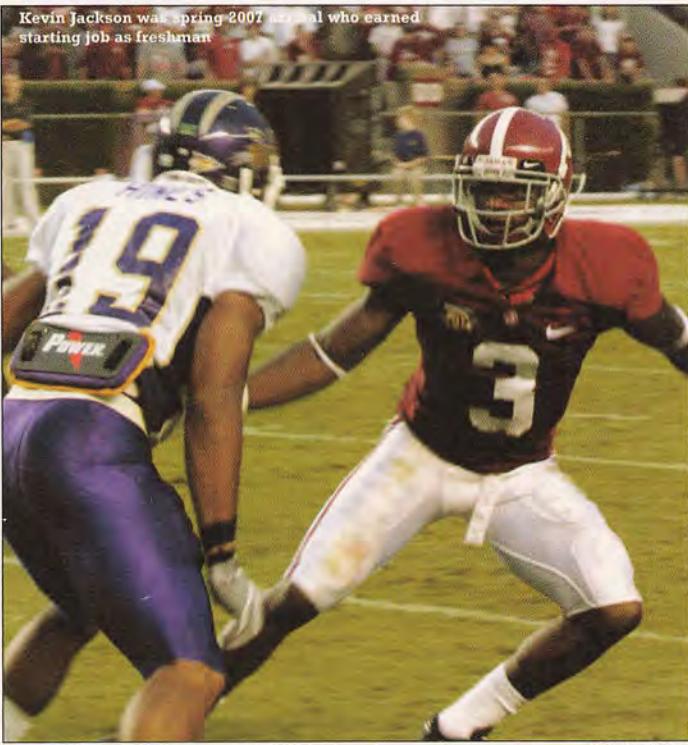
Alabama Coach Nick Saban and his staff have to approach spring practice with the idea of building a football team for the 2008 season with the talent on hand. That talent is what's left from a mediocre 2007 season, a 7-6 record.

The Crimson Tide has a bit of an unusual spring practice schedule this year. Because the City of Tuscaloosa attracted a national triathlon competition that had to be held on April 19—the date originally set aside for Alabama's spring game—Saban acceded to the request to move the A-Day Game. City officials said they couldn't handle the problems associated with the triathlon (streets closing, for instance) and the crush of an Alabama spring game crowd. Bama may not equal last year's 92,000 for the Crimson-White game, but it is most likely to be a very large crowd.

Therefore, the spring schedule includes A-Day being on Saturday, April 12. Moving the game up a week meant other problems for Saban and the Tide.

Because The University's spring break was scheduled for the week of March 16, it was not possible to schedule all 15 practice dates between post-spring break and A-Day. (The spring game couldn't be held after the triathlon because it would put football practice too close to final examinations.)

So Alabama scheduled a couple of days of practice prior to spring break, on March 13 and March 14. Practice was to resume on March 24. After the 2 p.m. CDT A-Day Game on



Kevin Jackson was spring 2007's final who earned starting job as freshman

April 12, it was expected there would be one final practice on the Monday following, April 14.

Generally, Alabama spring practice days are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Other than the A-Day Game, Alabama practices are closed.

As last year, Alabama will have pretty much a veteran offensive team returning and has some critical spots to fill on the defensive side.

In 2008, Saban and his staff were all new. Without suggesting there were any preparation problems owing to new systems, techniques, and terminology, it is reasonable to believe that returning players will be

ahead of last year from a mental standpoint.

Players have also been in the Saban off-season program for a second year.

Those should be advantages.

It is also a plus that returning players are a year more experienced.

The disadvantage is players who are not available. Obviously, that includes those whose eligibility has been completed.

The players lost to graduation included three wide receivers and two regulars in the offensive line. The receivers are D.J. Hall, Matt Caddell and Keith Brown. Three-year starting guard Justin Britt and tackle Chris Capps, a two-year starter prior to his senior year, were other prominent offensive grads.

Defensive losses include defensive end Wallace Gilberry, jack linebacker Keith Saunders, weakside linebacker Darren Mustin, safety Marcus Carter, and cornerback Simeon Castille.

It would not be a surprise if some returning Tiders were out of spring practice after undergoing injuries that required medical attention, although Saban said most—including tailback Terry Grant—should be able to

New Rules

Is there a better game than college football? The NCAA Football Rules Committee thinks it can be improved. A couple of years ago the committee made some changes to speed up the game. The result was disaster and the old rules were reinstated.

Undaunted by its previous failure, the Rules Committee tries again.

The biggest change in the new effort to speed up the game will be the implementation of a 40-second play clock that is similar to the one used in the NFL. The 40-second clock will start immediately after the end of each play. Under the old rules, the 25-second play clock did not start until after the ball was marked ready for play by the officials.

Other changes in college football rules for 2008:

After a player runs out of bounds and the ball is made ready to play, the game clock will start. Under the old rules the game clock would not start until the ball was snapped. This new rule will not apply in the last two minutes of the first half and the last two minutes of the game.

A coach will get an extra instant replay challenge if his first one is correct. Under the old rule the coach had one challenge whether he was right or wrong.

If a kickoff goes out of bounds, the receiving team will have the option of taking the ball on its own 40-yard line. The previous rule gave the receiving team the ball on the 35-yard line.

The incidental five-yard facemask penalty has been eliminated. The only facemask penalties that will be called will be for 15 yards.

There will no longer be sideline warnings for players and coaches who crowd onto the field during the game. The official may assess a five-yard penalty without a warning for the infraction.

participate in the spring. The coach did confirm that offensive linemen B.J. Stabler and Cody Davis had been forced to give up football because of injuries. Most likely to miss because of health issues is linebacker Zeke Knight. Jeremy Elder was dismissed from the team after being arrested for armed robbery. Linebacker Prince Hall was suspended from the team through spring practice and his future status questionable.

When Saban came to Alabama he said that he wanted to have a football team that would be physically dominant.

WHAT IT MEANS

TO BE CRIMSON TIDE GENE STALLINGS AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS

Alabama football means championships and All-Americans and, for many, memories of a man in a houndstooth hat. Some 60 former Alabama players who performed in Crimson and White over a

75-year period tell us **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE**, and many remember Paul "Bear" Bryant. His time as a Bama player, assistant coach, and 25 years as head coach is a major part of Alabama football, but not the only great era. There have also been national championships won under Wallace Wade and Frank Thomas and Gene Stallings. And part of **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE** is former Alabama players' expectations of more national titles.

The last coach to lead Alabama to the national championship is Gene Stallings, who played and coached for Coach Bryant before becoming a Hall

of Fame caliber coach himself.

Not only have the coaches been legendary but that stellar tradition has spawned players enshrined in the College Football Hall of Fame and the NFL's Pro Football Hall of Fame. Now, Gene Stallings and 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair have collaborated to bring together many of the greatest players ever to wear the Crimson and White to share their memories in **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE-GENE STALLINGS AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS**.

Among those sharing their memories are: from the '40s and '50s, Harry Gilmer and Bart Starr; from the '60s and '70s, Lee Roy Jordan, Joe Namath, Ray Perkins, Ken Stabler, Johnny Musso, John Hannah, and Ozzie Newsome; from the '80s and '90s, Mike Shula and Jay Barker. And many more, including those from the new millennium.

Gene Stallings reveals much of his philosophy and also tells the story of how he did not become Alabama's head football coach in 1983. Kirk McNair introduces the players.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE-GENE STALLINGS AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS is now available. The hardcover book is more than 300 pages in an oversized format with archival photographs throughout. To order your copy (\$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling) call 1-205-345-5074. You may request a personalized autograph from Kirk McNair.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CRIMSON TIDE



GENE STALLINGS

AND ALABAMA'S GREATEST PLAYERS

KIRK McNAIR

It has long been a function of spring practice to make a team tougher. Physical work might improve Bama's poor performance in the red zone on both offense and defense.

Going into the 2007 season, conventional wisdom had it that the veteran offense would carry the team. As it turned out, the defense played better than the offense last season.

The same conclusion of expecting the offense to be better this season might be reached. Returning starting quarterback John Parker Wilson will be under his third quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator in three years as Jim McElwain takes over those duties from Major Applewhite. Wilson has set all sorts of Alabama passing records, but has not been a big winner (not always the fault of the quarterback, of course). He needs a good senior season to erase the memory of the critical mistakes he made, such as the interception he threw against Mississippi State and the fumbles he gave up against FSU and LSU.

The offensive line includes all-stars Andre Smith and Antoine Caldwell and all running backs return. Terry Grant, Glen Coffee and Roy Upchurch will be joined by redshirt freshman Demetrius Goode, who is recovering from knee surgery that kept him out last fall.

Tight end is an area of depth. Nick Walker and Travis McCall are both considered starters. They'll also have a new position coach, Bobby Williams having replaced Ron Middleton.

The defense needs help on the line. Bobby Greenwood has had starting experience at end and Lorenzo Washington was top man at nose tackle last fall. A number of candidates will compete for time in the three down positions.

Returning talent includes linebacker Rolando McClain, safety Rashad Johnson and cornerback Kareem Jackson.

Jimmy Johns has made the move from tailback to linebacker, and bowl practice reports had him as a pleasant

2008 ALABAMA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	SERIES RECORD
Aug. 30	Clemson	Atlanta	UofA leads 11-3
Sept. 6	Tulane	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 26-11-3
Sept. 13	Western Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	First Meeting
Sept. 20	Arkansas	Fayetteville	UofA leads 11-7-0
Sept. 27	Georgia	Athens	UofA leads 35-25-4
Oct. 4	Kentucky	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 33-2-1
Oct. 18	Ole Miss	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 44-9-2
Oct. 25	Tennessee	Knoxville	UofA leads 45-38-7
Nov. 1	Arkansas State	Tuscaloosa (Homecoming)	UofA leads 1-0-0
Nov. 8	LSU	Baton Rouge	UofA leads 43-23-5
Nov. 15	Mississippi State	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 72-17-3
Nov. 29	Auburn	Tuscaloosa	UofA leads 38-33-1
Dec. 6	SEC Championship	Atlanta	2 wins, 3 losses

Spring Practice Dates In SEC

Here are the scheduled dates for spring football practice in the Southeastern Conference:

SCHOOL	START	SPRING GAME
Alabama	March 13	April 12*
Arkansas	April 3	April 26
Auburn	February 28	March 29
Florida	March 19	April 12
Georgia	March 3	April 5
Kentucky	March 26	April 19
LSU	February 29	April 5
Ole Miss	March 17	April 12
Mississippi State	February 26	March 29
South Carolina	March 19	April 19
Tennessee	March 11	April 19
*Vanderbilt	March 11	March 29

*Alabama will complete spring practice April 15, after its spring game on April 12. Vanderbilt will complete spring practice April 5 after its spring game on March 29.



Nikita Stever most experienced returning wide receiver for Tide

University of Alabama

surprise on defense. Alabama will need a few more surprises to raise the talent and depth levels at linebacker spots.

Alabama used a lot of defensive backs last fall. This is an area of Saban expertise and it is reasonable to expect the Tide to come out of spring work with players well trained in secondary play.

There is a limit as to how much work will be done on special teams in the spring. Both kickers are back, Leigh Tiffin who was excellent as a place-kicker and punter P.J. Fitzgerald, who needs to be more consistent. Bama has one of the nation's better return men in Javier Arenas.

Although Alabama was not a very good team last year, it dominated SEC East Champion Tennessee and led eventual national champion LSU until the final minutes, so there is reason to believe the Tide is not far away from revitalization.

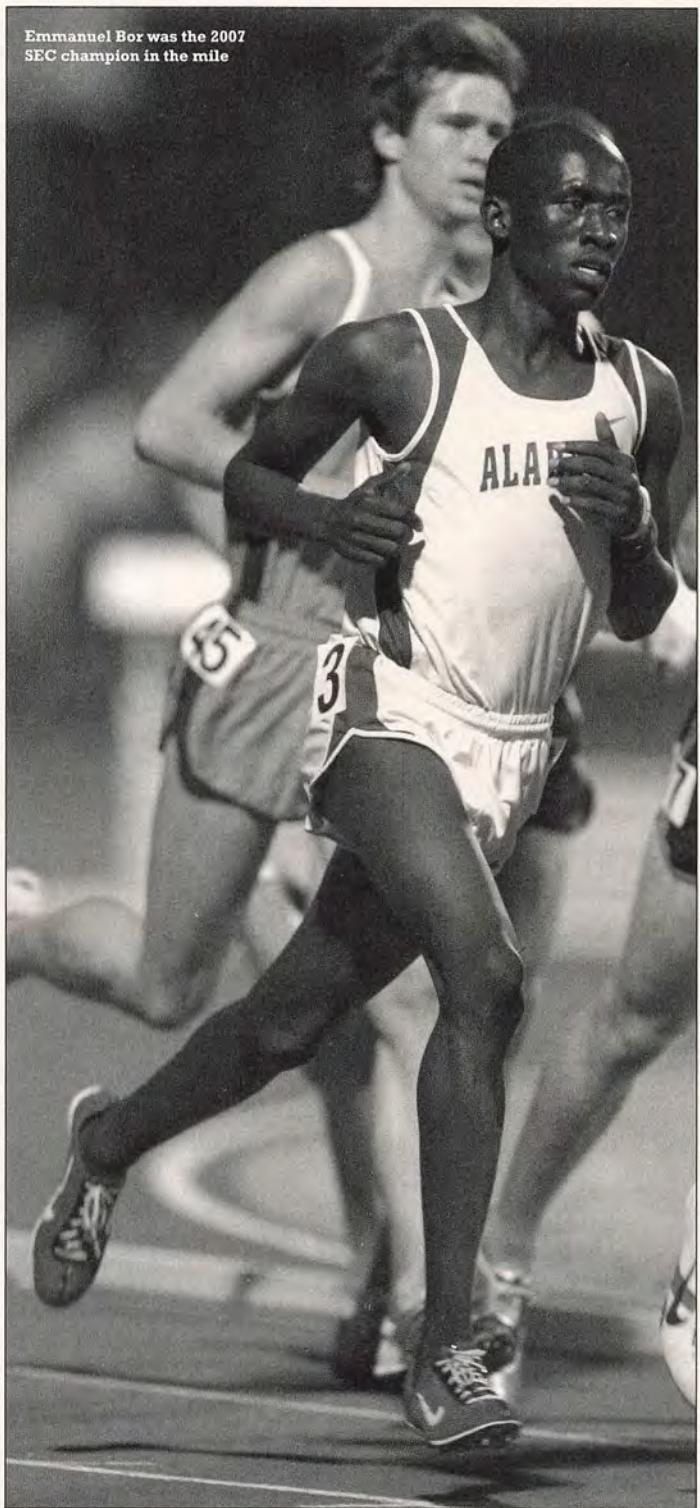
The trip to respectability and beyond continues with spring training.

2008 Alabama Spring Football Roster

No	Name, Pos	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown	No	Name, Pos	Cl	Hgt	Wgt	Exp	Hometown
3	Kareem Jackson, CB	So	5-11	185	1L	Macon, Ga.	47	Ezekial Knight, LB	Sr	6-4	235	3L	Wedowee
4	Marquis Maze, WR	Fr	5-9	167	RS	Tarrant	48	Travis Sikes, WR	So	6-2	194	Sq	Nashville, Tenn.
5	Roy Upchurch, TB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Tallahassee, Fla.	49	Rashad Johnson, S	Sr	6-0	187	3L	Sulligent
5	Chris Jackson, WR	Fr	6-1	190	HS	McDonough, Ga.	51	Michael DeJohn, LB	Fr	6-0	220	RS	Hoover
6	Patrick Bryant, QB	Fr	6-3	208	RS	Pensacola, Fla.	52	Alfred McCullough, DT	Fr	6-2	317	RS	Athens
7	Will Oakley, WR	Sr	6-1	196	2L	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.	53	Paul Silvey, SN	Fr	5-11	215	RS	Prattville
8	Chris Rogers, DB	Jr	6-0	192	2L	Lakeland, Fla.	55	Chavis Williams, DE/LB	Fr	6-4	214	RS	Dora
8	Robert Ezell, QB	Fr	5-9	163	RS	Athens	58	Nick Gentry, DL	Fr	6-3	263	RS	Prattville
9	Nikita Stover, WR	Sr	6-0	207	2L	Hartselle	59	Antoine Caldwell, C-OG	Sr	6-3	292	3L	Montgomery
10	Jimmy Johns, LB	Sr	6-2	233	3L	Brookhaven, Miss.	59	Alex Benson, LB	So	6-1	210	Sq	Trussville
13	Corey Reamer, DB	Jr	6-4	223	1L	Hoover	60	Scott Deaton, OL	Jr	6-6	286	Sq	Birmingham
14	John Parker Wilson, QB	Sr	6-2	213	2L	Hoover	64	Layne Rinks, OL	Sr	6-2	262	Sq	Florence
15	Darius Hanks, WR	Fr	6-0	190	RS	Norcross, Ga.	66	Brian Motley, DL	So	6-2	280	Sq	Autaugaville
16	Thomas Darrah, QB	Fr	6-5	190	RS	Newnan, Ga.	67	Brian Selman, SN	Sr	6-0	218	1L	Vestavia Hills
16	Lionel Mitchell, CB	Sr	6-2	182	2L	Stone Mountain, Ga.	68	Taylor Pharr, OL	So	6-6	281	1L	Irondale
17	Greg McElroy, QB	So	6-3	218	Sq	Southlake, Texas	69	Patrick Crump, OL	Fr	6-3	267	RS	Hoover
18	Nick Fanuzzi, QB	Fr	6-3	201	RS	San Antonio, Texas	70	Evan Cardwell, C	Jr	6-2	278	2L	Killen
19	Tarence Farmer, DB	Fr	6-0	195	RS	Houston, Texas	71	Andre Smith, OT	Jr	6-5	340	2L	Birmingham
23	Tremayne Coger, DB	So	5-11	190	1L	Columbia, Tenn.	73	William Vlachos, OL	Fr	6-1	295	RS	Birmingham
24	Marquis Johnson, DB	Jr	5-11	186	1L	Sarasota, Fla.	74	David Ross, OL	So	6-4	297	Sq	Homewood
25	Rolando McClain, MLB	So	6-4	255	1L	Decatur	76	Marlon Davis, OL	Sr	6-4	290	3L	Columbus, Ga.
26	Ali Sharrief, DB	Jr	5-9	197	2L	Stevenson	78	Mike Johnson, OL	Jr	6-6	298	2L	Pensacola, Fla.
27	Justin Woodall, S	Jr	6-2	224	2L	Oxford, Miss.	79	Drew Davis, OL	Jr	6-8	276	Sq	Evergreen
28	Javier Arenas, SS	Jr	5-9	193	2L	Tampa, Fla.	80	Mike McCoy, WR	Jr	6-3	199	2L	Rankin, Miss.
29	Terry Grant, TB	So	5-10	188	1L	Lumberton, Miss.	81	Andrew Friedman, PK	Jr	6-1	210	Sq	Fairhope
30	Jonathan Lowe, TB	Sr	5-7	184	1L	Phenix City	82	Earl Alexander, WR	So	6-5	210	1L	Phenix City
32	Eryk Anders, OLB	Jr	6-2	225	1L	San Antonio, Texas	83	Travis McCall, TE	Sr	6-2	261	3L	Prattville
33	Demetrius Goode, TB	Fr	5-10	197	RS	LaGrange, Ga.	84	Brandon Gibson, WR	Fr	6-1	192	RS	Mobile
33	Patrick Hanrahan, FB	So	6-0	232	Sq	Springville	84	Colin Peek, TE	Jr	6-6	250	Tr	Jacksonville, Fla.
33	Hampton Gray, SS	So	6-1	188	Sq	Northport	85	Preston Dial, TE	So	6-3	223	1L	Mobile
34	Jeramie Griffin, FB	Fr	6-0	225	RS	Batesville, Miss.	87	Chris Underwood, TE	Fr	6-4	226	RS	Birmingham
34	Courtney Moore, DB	Sr	5-10	194	Sq	Florence	87	Drew Bullard, FB-LB	Fr	6-3	241	RS	Florence
35	Charlie Kirschman, LB	So	6-2	228	1L	St. Augustine, Fla.	88	Nick Walker, TE	Sr	6-5	255	3L	Brundidge
35	Joe Robinson, LB	So	5-11	230	RS	Birmingham	89	Charles Hoke, TE	Sr	6-7	253	2L	Birmingham
37	Trent Dean, SS	Sr	5-10	183	Sq	Decatur	90	Milton Talbert, DE	So	6-3	252	1L	Hattiesburg, Miss.
37	Corey Smith, PK-P	Fr	6-0	190	HS	Bunker Hill, W.Va.	91	Alex Watkins, DI-LB	Fr	6-3	218	RS	Brownsville, Tenn.
38	Glen Coffee, TB	Jr	6-2	197	2L	Ft. Walton Bch., Fla.	93	Bobby Greenwood, DE	Sr	6-5	257	3L	Prattville
39	Tyrone King, DB	Jr	5-11	204	1L	Birmingham	93	Drew Cummings, TE-DE	Fr	6-5	216	RS	Huntington, W.Va.
39	Darwin Salaam, WR	Sr	6-3	187	Sq	Madison	95	Brandon Deaderick, DL	Jr	6-4	286	2L	Elizabethtown, Ky.
40	Baron Huber, FB	Jr	6-3	242	2L	Knoxville, Tenn.	95	Colin Gallagher, PK	Fr	6-0	189	RS	Atlanta, Ga.
41	Brandon Powell, FB	Jr	6-2	221	RS	Grove Hill	96	Luther Davis, DE	So	6-4	275	1L	West Monroe, La.
42	Jennings Hester, LB	Fr	6-2	224	RS	Atlanta, Ga.	96	Daniel Wood, TE	Jr	6-2	237	Sq	McCalla
43	Sam Burnthall, DB	Jr	6-2	185	2L	Decatur	97	P.J. Fitzgerald, P	Jr	5-11	194	2L	Coral Springs, Fla.
43	A.J. Walker, WR	Fr	6-1	185	RS	Huntsville	97	Lorenzo Washington, DT	Jr	6-4	283	2L	Logansville, Ga.
44	Jacob Vane, FB	So	6-1	232	Sq	Oak Ridge, Tenn.	98	Brandon Fanney, LB	Jr	6-4	241	1L	Morristown, Tenn.
45	Chas Higgenbotham, LB	So	6-1	211	1L	Birmingham	98	Heath Thomas, P	Jr	6-3	213	Sq	Montgomery
45	Sam Snider, P-WR	Fr	5-10	163	RS	Norcross, Ga.	99	Josh Chapman, DT	Fr	6-1	300	RS	Hoover
46	Kyle Pennington, WR	Fr	5-11	170	RS	Chatom	99	Leigh Tiffin, PK	Jr	6-1	198	2L	Muscle Shoals

Distance Runners Lead

Men's track & field outlook



The Alabama men's track and field team will have a lot of momentum heading into the 2008 season. The Tide is coming off its most successful cross country season in school history and in turn brings to the track squad one of the most potent distance squads in the country.

Alabama placed sixth at the NCAA Championships this past fall, led by All-American Augustus Maiyo. The Kenyan native is just part of the contingency that has had its distance success translate to the oval.

Maiyo was an All-American on the track in 2006 and fellow countryman Emmanuel Bor was the 2007 SEC champion in the mile.

In addition to the distance squad head coach Harvey Glance has a mixture of seasoned veterans along with a core group of young and very talented underclassmen.

"We are moving in a direction that will enable us to be strong for many years to come," Glance said. "I am excited about the talent on our team. We have some great athletes."

DISTANCE

On top of Maiyo and Bor who have already etched their names in the Alabama annals the Tide welcomes five-time junior college national champion and eight-time JUCO All-American Tyson David. In Cross Country he was an All-American in 2006, winning the national title, and in 2007, finishing third overall. On the track, he earned six of his All-American honors in two seasons.

Andrew Kirwa and Abraham Kutingala rounded out a formidable nucleus for the cross country and distance teams. Already this season Bor has ran a provisional mark in the 3000 meters while Kutingala has recorded the fastest time in the SEC in 5000 meters. The distance medley team ranks second among all squads in the conference.

SPRINTS

Senior Michael Cooley not only leads the team in the sprint events but is also the team leader. Cooley has been a consistent SEC scorer and NCAA qualifier in his career at Alabama in the 400 and 200 meters. Glance has a foundation for a great relay team at both the 4x100 and 4x400 meter races. Cooley was the anchor of a 4x100 relay team that reached the NCAA regional in Missouri last spring.

"In the sprint area we are a threat to get onto the national scene," Glance said. "I expect both our relay teams to make some noise this season."

Already this indoor season the 4x400 relay team has hit an NCAA provisional mark.

University of Alabama

Glance has a lot of sprinters at his disposal from the 60- to the 400-meter races. David Chaplin, Jontavious Knight, Joel Pile and Brandon Spradley have all run in big races for the Tide.

HURDLES

The hurdle group got a big boost this season from two transfers. Junior college transfer Antoine Fant earned five National Junior College Athletic Association (AJCCA) All-America honors in the 110 meter hurdles (2007 outdoor), 4 x 400 relay team (indoor and outdoor 2007), 4 x 100 relay team (2007 outdoor) and 60 meter hurdles (indoor 2007) at Wallace Community College.

His personal best time of 14.18 in the 110M hurdles is under the NCAA regional qualification mark of 14.30. His other personal best times are: 21.84 in the 200m, 7.58 in the 55m hurdles (indoor) and 8.08 in the 60m hurdles (indoor). His time in the 55m hurdles was the 84th fastest time in the world last season.

Joining Fant is Nebraska transfer Tim Grier. Grier is a versatile athlete who can compete in the sprints, jumps and hurdles for the Tide. Grier has made a name for himself in the grueling 400 meter hurdles where he was an NCAA provisional qualifier as a true freshman with a time of 51.21, good enough to etch his name in the Nebraska all-time top-10 list.

"Grier brings some very valuable experience after qualifying for the NCAA meet as a freshman," Glance said. "I am really excited about what Fant and Grier will bring in the hurdles."

FIELD

Alabama returns some key components to its field squad. Sophomore Tyler Boswell has already gained some valuable experience in the high jump after leaping 7-1.5 for a second place finish at the SEC Championships. For his efforts, Boswell was All-SEC as a true freshman.

In the pole vault senior Brandon Schneider brings experience to a relatively young squad. Schneider has finished as the Tide's top vaulter the last couple of seasons and looks to take the next step in 2008.

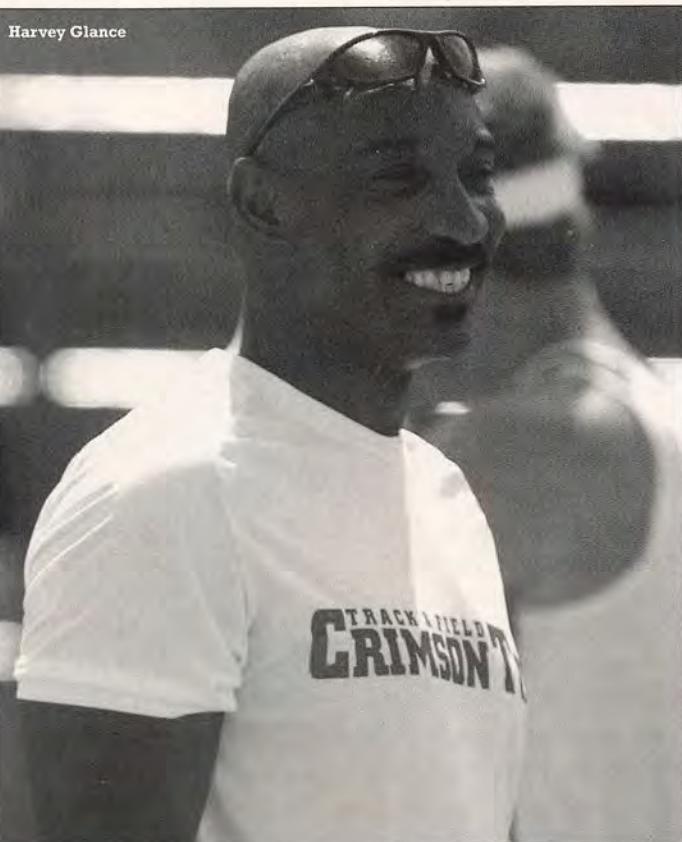
The Tide has put together one of the top long jump tandems in the nation. Troy transfer Michael Nichols brings immediate credibility to the long jump pit. Nichols has already jumped in the 25 foot range for a NCAA provisional mark and leaped over the 24 foot mark in all meets thus far in 2008.

Grier has also stepped onto the long jump scene. The sophomore has also hit a NCAA provisional mark, jumping consistently in the 24-foot range. Nichols and Grier finished 1-2 in three indoor meets this season.

David Clyburn will take his versatility into the decathlon and heptathlon. Clyburn finished fifth in his first heptathlon of the season, compiling a total score of 4885.

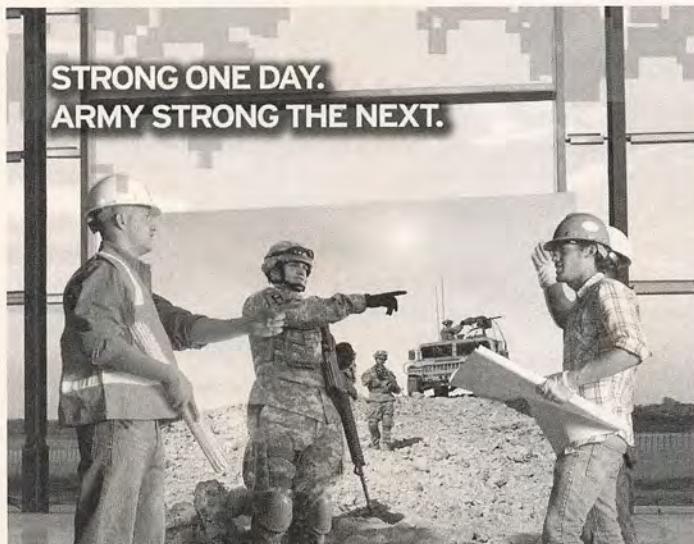
In the outdoor season the Tide will look to the strength of its javelin throwers. Alabama will showcase Peter Voorhes and Grant Stone.

With the combination of a polished distance program and the influx of new young talent the Alabama men's track team is poised to not only make some noise in 2008 but in years to come. ■



University of Alabama

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Counting On Experience

Core Group of veterans key to success

Coach Sandy Fowler and the Alabama women's track and field team head into the 2008 campaign with the athletes to make some noise nationally and a foundation of young talent to spur excitement in Tuscaloosa for years to come. Key returning performers headline the squad for the Tide as a strong complement of youth nips at the heels of the upperclassmen.

"I am looking for leadership and growth," Fowler said. "We have the making of some great leadership with Trish Bartholomew and Julia Hicks. Their leadership and the way they train and conduct themselves will help guide our young freshmen and sophomores."

Bartholomew, a senior, earned instant credibility among her Crimson Tide teammates by earning All-America accolades in the 400 meters in her first season at The Capstone. The three-time junior college All-America ran the fourth fastest quarter mile in school history.

Bartholomew jumped onto the national scene in one short season. Hicks, also a senior, has been a factor for the past four seasons. A four-year letter winner on the cross-country squad and the distance ace for the Tide since coming to Alabama from Ottawa, Ontario, looks to cap off her stellar career in impressive fashion.

To bridge the gap between the experience and the youth, sophomore Elizabeth Wilson was named team captain. Wilson, an Alabama native, was one of the top throwers for the Tide in her rookie season.

"I want the team to see what it takes to be an All-America or a conference champion," Fowler said. "The SEC is the pinnacle of collegiate track and field. When you go to the Southeastern Conference championship meet, you are talking about a mini-national championship. Those are things we need to be ready for."

SPRINTS/HURDLES

Bartholomew, who finished seventh in the nation in the 400 meters in 2007 with a 52.17, will look to add to her



accolades on the oval in 2008. Already this season the St. Andrews, Grenada native has clocked an NCAA provisional mark in the indoor quarter mile.

The sprint squad got a huge boost with the return of 2006 SEC Freshman Athlete of the Year Chelsea Taylor. After an injury-riddled 2007, Taylor returns healthy this year and looks for an ever better sophomore campaign. Taylor, who will spend time in numerous events, should be a major factor in the 200 meters. Taylor has already turned in a NCAA provisional mark in the indoor 200.

Versatility will be a staple for the Tide this season as many of the sprinters will also contribute in the hurdles. Kimberley Laing is the top returning hurdler for Alabama after clocking an NCAA qualifying mark in the 100 hurdles as a true freshman. Laing also turned in some of the top open 100 meter times last season.

Sophomore Heather Matherson made a name for herself as a true freshman. The Denver native recorded the top two times for the Tide in the 100 meters in 2007. Newcomers Rachel Robbs and Capri Knox will round out the sprint group. Robbs will join Taylor in the pentathlon and heptathlon while Knox will also be a factor in the jumping events.

Freshman Nichole Okolo and sophomore Talyaya Owens will compete in the sprints and hurdles. Owens posted the fastest 60 and three of the top five times in the 200 meters last year. Okolo, who also will jump, was a three-time Georgia state champ in the 100-meter hurdles.

DISTANCE

Hicks will anchor the distance squad once again for the Tide. Hicks has been to the cross country national championships as well as being consistent SEC scorer. Hicks will see most of her time in the mile, 3000 meters, and the 5000 meters. Last season Hicks recorded an NCAA provisional time in the 3000 and ran the fastest 5000 for Alabama.

The theme of the Alabama squad has been to tie in the older talent with promising youth and the distance squad is no different. Newcomer Haley Moody has already made a name for herself in cross country by earning NCAA All-South Region honors. Moody was the top finisher for the Tide in all six races in the fall.

The distance squad received a huge shot in the arm when

nine-time national champion Betty Rotich signed to compete this spring. Rotich was one of the top distance runners in the nation at the junior college and NAIA levels. Rotich has already notched an NCAA provisional mark in the 5000 meters.

In the steeplechase the duo of Ashley Ard and Kelsie Slater make a formidable tandem. Ard got some experience in the event as a true freshman last season while Slater comes to Alabama with some key steeple experience from her prep days in Canada.

THROWS

Newcomer Angelica Howard will look to have her prep success translate to the throwing ring at the collegiate level. Howard was the 2006 and 2007 Alabama state champion in the discus and the 2007 champion in the shot put. Joining Howard is fellow rookie Christina Octavien. The Naples, Florida, native brings lofty credentials in the discus to The Capstone.

Freshmen Jessica Hand and Meghan Austin will also be a part of the throwing future for the Tide. Hand set her high school record in the discus while Austin was a three-time Alabama state champ in the javelin.

The veteran of the group is the sophomore Wilson. Wilson got valuable experience last season and was the top thrower for Alabama in the javelin and hammer throw.

"We are young in the throws but I can see a number of things happening this season," Fowler said. "A lot of things are new to them and they will go through an adjustment phase, but they are coming along well."

FIELD EVENTS

In the pole vault the school record has been a kind of a revolving door for the duo of junior Lynda Cooper and sophomore Katherine Strickland. Both have held the honor with Cooper setting the mark twice at the Clemson Invitational the last two seasons. Junior Kayla Natale was not to be left out as she vaulted the top outdoor mark for the Tide last season.

In addition to her spring work, Taylor will be one of the top high jumpers in the conference. Taylor cleared a regional qualifying height as a true freshman and has already leaped an NCAA automatic mark this season in the event. Also, Taylor has long jumped over 21 feet. Knox will also jump for Alabama.

Walk-on Kiara Thompson will be counted on to add depth to the jumping squad.

"Our team needs to be strong, consistent and aggressive in all areas," Fowler said. "My philosophy has been to be selfish when you compete, worry about yourself, be aggressive, and want the victory more than your competitor."

Alabama has the talent now to set the blueprints for the youth for years to come. Old will meet new this season at the Sam Bailey Track and Field Complex. ■

Senior Julia Hicks has been standout in distance events



University of Alabama

Where Are They Now?

Gary Hollingsworth lived Cinderella career

Star Jackson Gary Hollingsworth was not.

Alabama did nab a couple of high-profile quarterbacks in that 1986 signing class, but those hot shots were named Billy Ray and Jeff Dunn, both of whom were considered among the top five prep signal-callers in the nation that year.

Few people knew much about Gary Hollingsworth, the 6-foot-4, 168-pound beanpole out of Hamilton. All they did know was he was certain to be buried on the depth chart throughout his career since he was coming in with super preps Ray and Dunn.

Ray Perkins, Alabama's head coach, wasn't worried about which of his three quarterback signees might someday ascend to starter status and which might ride the pine. Incidentally, Perkins thought Hollingsworth had a better shot at being a college baseball pitcher than a college football quarterback.

"One of my assistant coaches, Rockey Felker, came into my office one day and said, 'Look at this film,'" Perkins said. "I watched it and said, 'Who is that?' He said, 'Gary Hollingsworth, and he's just up the road in Hamilton.' We jumped in the car right then, drove to Hamilton and met him and his mother, and we offered him a scholarship. He committed a day or so later."

When Hollingsworth and his more ballyhooed quarterback comrades arrived on campus in 1986, Perkins sat them down and had them observe Alabama's current starting quarterback, senior Mike Shula.

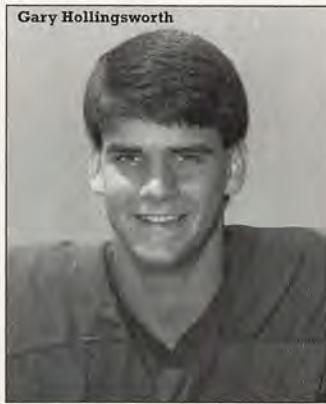
"Coach Perkins told us that's how a quarterback should be and look," recalled Hollingsworth, now 39 and living in Cullman. "Mike always remained so calm and he didn't panic. Of course, the fact that he didn't show a lot of emotion was something people criticized him for when he became the head coach. But that's just him. That's the way he played quarterback."

For the next three years, Hollingsworth did exactly what everyone predicted he would do—watch Alabama football games from the sideline. Then, in the second game of the 1989 season, Hollingsworth, then a redshirt junior, got his chance. Ray was gone, having transferred to Duke to play for Steve Spurrier. Dunn was finally the unquestioned starter and considered the key to Alabama's 1989 offense, but he went down to injury during the Kentucky game.

For Alabama fans, all hope for a successful season was gone, snuffed out with the sight of Dunn limping to the sideline. For Hollingsworth, the shot he had been waiting for had finally come.

But first he had to find his helmet.

"The job of the back-up quarterback is to chart plays, so I had a cap on and a clipboard in my hands," Hollingsworth explained. "I had put my helmet by the headphone wires near the bench so it would be out of the way. But sometime during the game, there were



some technical problems with the headphones and somebody had to move my helmet. When Jeff got hurt, there wasn't a ton of time for me to get ready to go in and when I went to get my helmet, it wasn't there. I finally found it, but even though it probably took me about 10 seconds, it seemed like a lot longer. That was probably good for me, though, because I didn't have time to get nervous."

Hollingsworth came in and helped the Tide to a 15-3 win over the Wildcats that day. It was the beginning of what would soon become a feel-good rags-to-riches story fit for Hollywood production. Two weeks after the Kentucky game, Alabama took on Ole Miss in Jackson and quickly fell behind 21-0. Final score? Alabama 62, Ole Miss 27. The tall, lanky guy everyone feared seeing behind center at the start of the season threw a school-record five touchdown passes as the Crimson Tide scored 62 unanswered points. Just a year earlier against Ole Miss, Alabama quarterbacks combined for a school record zero pass completions.

"When we were down 21-0 in the first quarter, (Offensive Coordinator) Homer Smith never panicked," Hollingsworth said. "He told me, 'These are the type situations you want as a quarterback. It's time to be free-wheeling.' We went no-huddle after that. Coach Smith was right. For a quarterback, that was a dream because we were throwing all over the place."

Hollingsworth's legend grew some more two weeks after that when undefeated Alabama met undefeated Tennessee in Birmingham. Again, Hollingsworth and the high-flying Tide offense took center stage as the Tide rolled past the Vols, 47-30, earning Alabama a full-fledged feature spread in Sports Illustrated. Hollingsworth, the co-hero of the game along with running back Siran Stacy, was excellent, completing 32 of 46 passes for 379 yards.

Hollingsworth said that it was "tough not getting to play for three years," but he responded the way a winner would. "I resolved that if I ever did get a chance, I was going to be ready," he said.

Part of that preparation and maturation process, he said, involved being there on the sidelines at all the various venues where Alabama played from 1986 to 1988. He absorbed and soaked in as much as he could.

"I was able to experience those environments but do so without feeling the pressure of being the starting quarterback," Hollingsworth said. "So I was not in awe of going to those places in 1989 even though it was my first season to start."

Alabama, led by its out-of-nowhere surprise quarterback, continued to pile up the points and the wins that season. Heading into the final regular season game against Auburn, the Tide was 10-0, ranked second in the land, and on course for a national championship showdown with Number One Miami in the Sugar Bowl.

Hollingsworth wasn't just the talk of Alabama or the SEC anymore. He was the talk of the nation.

"It was a little hard for me," Hollingsworth said of his growing celebrity status. "I went from being a guy no one wanted to have a picture taken with and no one wanted an autograph from to appearing on the evening news and in newspapers and magazines. It was difficult to adjust to that."

In one of the more hyped games in Alabama-Auburn history, Auburn put an end to Hollingsworth and Alabama's dream season with a 30-20 upset win. In addition to the obvious rivalry aspect of the game and the fact that Alabama was undefeated and ranked number two, it was also the first time that Auburn hosted Alabama at Jordan-Hare Stadium after years of playing at Legion Field.

"That was the loudest game atmosphere I remember," Hollingsworth said. "It was also the first time I remember going out for the pre-game walk-through still dressed in our suits and the stadium already being packed. But despite all the hype, it still came down to their 11 versus our 11, and three times we got inside their 20 early in the game, and we came away with only six points. We just didn't make the plays when we had the opportunities."

Alabama, which had to settle for sharing the SEC title that year with Tennessee and Auburn, did earn a spot in the Sugar Bowl opposite Number One Miami, but the Hurricanes prevailed 33-25. It wasn't the ending to the season the Tide had hoped for, but considering the pessimism surrounding the team when Dunn went down in game two, few were complaining.

Alabama racked up 357 points, the most points the Tide had scored in six years, and its offense, one of the most prolific aerial attacks in school history, finished with a school-record 230 completions.

"Coach Smith deserves so much credit for that," Hollingsworth said. "We exploited the way defenses were set up back then. At that time, linebackers were basically recruited to stop the run in the SEC. Our big playmakers were guys like tight end Lamonde Russell, running back Siran Stacy and fullback Kevin Turner, and they caught a bunch of short passes that season working against linebackers. It was basically like an extended handoff."

Hollingsworth set a school record with 2,379 yards passing—a record that stood until Brodie Croyle threw for 2,499 yards in 2005. Hollingsworth was named SEC Offensive Player of the Year and was also named to Alabama's Team of the Decade for the 1980s, beating out two other prominent Alabama star signal callers of that era: Shula and Walter Lewis.

Not bad for a guy who started the season as a no-name clipboard holder.

Alabama football went through a transition period in Hollingsworth's senior season as Gene Stallings replaced Bill Curry as head coach. After starting off 0-3, Alabama finished 7-5 and, along the way, notched a memorable 9-6 upset victory over undefeated Tennessee and finally beat Auburn for the first time in five years.

"You definitely don't want to finish your career as an Alabama player having never beaten Auburn," Hollingsworth said.

With all the big wins, all the big numbers and the Cinderella story that was the 1989 season, the one thing about his career that Hollingsworth is proud of most is that his teammates voted him team captain in 1990.

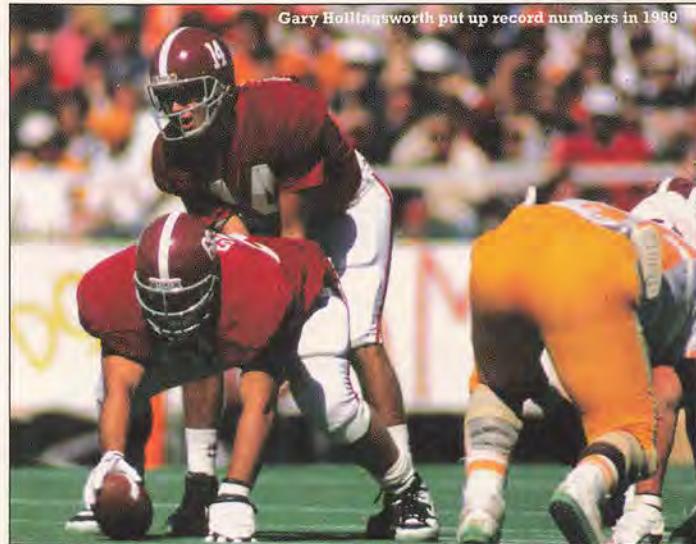
"To me, that was the biggest honor I received," he said, "because that was something that wasn't voted on by sportswriters or other people on the outside. It was voted on by my teammates, the guys I was with every day, the guys I was with on and off the field. For them to view me as their captain, I just can't put that into words."

Hollingsworth said his two children like to put their hands and feet in the imprints left by their father at the base of Denny Chimes on campus where all of Alabama's football captains throughout history have left their imprints.

"It's such a great honor," Hollingsworth said of his spot at Denny Chimes.

Hollingsworth had a short-lived NFL experience with the Houston Oilers and decided to retire from the game after going through some mini camps with the franchise.

"I had been an athlete long enough to know when I didn't belong, and I knew I didn't belong in the NFL," he said. "I wasn't ready physically



Gary Hollingsworth put up record numbers in 1989

or mentally for pro football. It was a job, and one of the reasons I didn't get nervous when I played in college was because I had always viewed football as a game, and I enjoyed myself when I played."

Hollingsworth went into the construction business, accepting a position with Cavalier Homes. He worked with the company 15 years before starting his own construction company, Fourteen Properties, last year.

"It was either my wife or my kids who came up with that," Hollingsworth said of the company name, which refers to his jersey number at Alabama. "It obviously has some meaning to me."

The best part about his current career undertaking, he said, is the fact that he's able to travel less, allowing him more time to spend with his family: wife, Sharyn, son Drake, 11, and daughter Callie, 8. He helps coach Drake's baseball team.

While his kids are aware he played football at Alabama, they don't quite understand why he's revered by Tide fans.

"I think it shocks them when someone comes up and wants their dad's autograph," Hollingsworth said. "They're like, 'Why?' There's nothing like your kids to keep you humble. I'm just 'Dad' to them. It's not like we sit around on Friday nights watching my old games together as a family. In fact, I don't even own any tapes of my old games."

Hollingsworth still loves Alabama football, but these days he's more interested in the current state of the program and enjoys attending games as a fan. He said he's been impressed with Coach Nick Saban.

"I'm excited about where we're going and I'm excited that Alabama fans seem to be united again," he said. "Do I believe that Coach Saban is going to stay here forever? No. Coaches come and go, and players come and go, but The University of Alabama is still The University of Alabama. That's one of the things that attracts players to the school. It may surprise us as players, but even after we graduate, they'll still field a team the following year."

For all the players who do follow after him at The University, Hollingsworth has a little bit of advice, especially for those toiling in back-up roles: Be prepared.

"No matter what it is, if you prepare yourself and work toward your goals, your opportunity will come at some point," he said. "It's then that you've got to take advantage of it."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gary Hollingsworth is one of some 62 former Alabama players who tell their story of "What It Means To Be Crimson Tide" in the book by 'BAMA Editor Kirk McNair, with Gene Stallings. It can be ordered by calling (205) 345-5074. \$27.95 plus tax, shipping and handling.

'BAMA Scorecard

Notebooking Crimson Tide Sports

BACK TO WORK

Two former Alabama assistant football coaches were in the news this year as they took high profile jobs. Sparky Woods, running backs coach, and Joe Kines, defensive coordinator and linebackers coach, under Head Coach Mike Shula got new positions.

Woods was named head coach at Virginia Military Institute and Kines was hired by Mike Sherman (who replaced former Bama Head Coach Dennis Franchione) at Texas A&M. Kines will be assistant head coach and defensive coordinator for the Aggies.

Former Alabama star wide receiver Joey Jones, who made a big name for himself as head coach at Mountain Brook High School in Birmingham, has made a quick move in the college ranks. Jones was selected to be the coach at Birmingham-Southern College a year ago as that school revived its long dormant football program, then was named this spring to take the same position at South Alabama in Mobile, which is starting football.

BASEBALL GETS NO RESPECT

The Vanderbilt Commodores are predicted to repeat as the 2008 Southeastern Conference baseball champions, as voted by the league's 12 baseball coaches in the 17th annual preseason SEC poll.

The coaches were not high on the Alabama Crimson Tide. Bama was picked to finish last in the SEC Western Division.

The Commodores, ranked as high as third nationally in the preseason polls, seek to capture their fifth SEC Championship, having also won titles in 1973, 1974, 1980 and 2007. Vanderbilt returns eight position starters and four pitchers from their 2007 squad which also won the SEC Tournament and earned the number one seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Since 1996, the SEC has named a regular season champion as well as a tournament champion. Prior to 1996, the tournament champion was considered the SEC Champion.

In the overall SEC Champion vote, Vanderbilt received five of the 12 championship votes in the poll. Ole Miss followed closely behind with four votes, while South Carolina received three.

In addition to picking a preseason SEC champion, the league's head coaches voted a predicted order of finish in the SEC Eastern and Western Divisions. Ole Miss was the clear favorite in the Western Division. Mississippi State, last season's SEC representative at the College World Series, was second, Arkansas third, Auburn fourth, LSU fifth and Alabama last. In the Eastern Division, Vanderbilt was the favorite with 62 of a possible 66 points. South Carolina came in second, Kentucky third, Georgia fourth, Florida fifth, and Tennessee sixth.

500 AND COUNTING

Everywhere one turns, it seems, there is another success for the Alabama women's softball team, which rose to a second in the nation ranking in the first week of the season.

The Crimson Tide gave Coach Pat Murphy his career 500th victory with a February 13 record-breaking 21-1 victory over McNeese State.

"I feel a lot of relief that the 500th win is over and in the books," Murphy said

Murphy, in his 10th season with Alabama, has built one of the most dominant offenses in the nation in the past few seasons of his tenure, making it entirely fitting that an offensive explosion gave the Tide skipper win number 500.

The 21-run effort set a new school record for runs in a game, bettering the 19 Alabama scored in the NCAA Regional elimination game against Tennessee Tech last May. Alabama scored 14 in the first and seven in the second behind an impressive team offensive performance, particularly by sophomore Charlotte Morgan.

Morgan collected three extra-base hits while setting a UA single-game record. Morgan smashed a grand slam home run in the bottom of the first, the second of her career. Later in the inning, Morgan lined a laser off of the left-field wall with bases loaded, driving in three while missing her second grand slam of the game by inches.

After adding another hard-hit double in the second, Morgan finished a perfect 3-of-3 from the plate with a walk, a pair of doubles and a grand slam, giving her eight RBI and moving her past Dominique Acceturo for the single-game RBI record at Alabama. Acceturo had seven in a win over Samford on March 17, 2005.

POLLS

Alabama had been ranked fourth in the nation in both national college softball. (By the end of the second week of competition the Tide had been elevated to number one in both polls.)

Alabama, which finished its 2007 season with a 55-10 record and a ninth-place ranking in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association final poll, was the top-ranked team in the Southeastern Conference on the initial poll. Other SEC schools in the pre-season top 25 included No. 6 Tennessee, No. 9 LSU and 13th-ranked Florida. Four of the Tide's non-conference opponents are also in the poll, including No. 7 Northwestern, No. 10 DePaul, No. 11 Washington and No. 17 Georgia Tech.

The Tide has finished in the nation's top 10 in each of the last three seasons and earned the program's first-ever Number One ranking early in the 2007 campaign.

It was no surprise that Alabama was an overwhelming favorite of SEC coaches to win the league title.

In a pre-season poll, the SEC coaches gave Alabama 11 votes for the overall championship. Florida received two overall first-place votes and LSU got one.

ALL-STAR RECOGNITION

Alabama junior softball star Lauren Parker, who had one of the best single seasons in school history last season, has been named a preseason first team All-America by ESPN.com, one of three Tide players to be recognized by the organization. Brittany Rogers and Jordan Praytor were selected to the second team.

Parker, who recorded the second best single-season batting average in Alabama history by hitting .457 last year, is one of three returning Tide players who earned postseason All-America honors in 2007. She owns a career .387 batting average and hit nine home runs for UA last season.

The outfield duo of Rogers and Praytor were on the second team. Rogers, who led the Southeastern Conference in several offensive categories last year, was selected as an outfielder. Praytor, who is in the top 10 in several Alabama career charts, was a second team honoree at the designated player/utility position.

SOLD OUT

After setting several attendance records in 2007, the University of

Alabama softball program exceeded another attendance milestone prior to the start of the 2008 season when the UA ticket office sold the 1,595th and final available season ticket package.

The Tide was third in the nation in attendance last year as Bama went 55-10, including a 21-6 SEC mark. Bama finished the 2007 season ranked ninth in the nation.

The official sellout notwithstanding, individual and group tickets will be available on a game-by-game basis. General seating is available on the first base hillside on a first-come, first-serve basis. Unused seats will be available until a season ticket holder arrives to claim the seat.

Three Tide Softball Players on ASA Top 50 Watch List

WATCH THIS

The Amateur Softball Association (ASA) Top 50 Watch List for the seventh annual USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award includes three Alabama players. Lauren Parker, Brittany Rogers and Chrissy Owens, are on the list.

"All three players have shown they are capable of competing with best in the country throughout their careers," said Alabama Coach Patrick Murphy. "They are all looking forward to this spring and competing against the best all season long."

The award, one of the most prestigious in collegiate softball, is designed to recognize outstanding athletic achievement by players from around the nation. The 2008 list includes players from 34 schools and 14 Division I Conferences.

Parker, who burst onto the scene last season after transferring to Alabama from Baylor, earned 2007 All-America after hitting .457, the second highest batting average in school



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history. She also hit nine home runs.

One of the most dangerous leadoff hitters in the country, Rogers helped spark the Tide's record-setting offense a year ago. She hit .402, becoming the ninth player in UA history to surpass the .400 mark in a season. Rogers led the SEC in steals and steal attempts and recorded a .426 on-base percentage. She was named second team All-America in addition to All-SEC.

The ace of the UA pitching staff last season, Owens had a 1.30 ERA with 144 strikeouts and a 24-5 record. She posted 11 shutouts, second-best in school annals, and combined for five others. Owens was named third team All-America in addition to All-SEC.

The ASA will announce 25 finalists on April 9. A player does not have to appear on the initial watch list to be considered for the final list, but must be on the top 25 list to be considered. A list of 10 finalists will be released on May 7, with the winner announced prior to the start of the 2008 NCAA Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City in late May.

PATTERSON AWARD

Alabama gymnasts are among the best in receiving awards for athletics, academics, and community service. It is difficult to imagine a former Alabama gymnast winning an award that would be more meaningful than one named in honor of the woman who has led the Crimson Tide program of excellence.

This year that honor goes to the Crimson Tide's volunteer coach, Dana Dobransky Duckworth. She was chosen to receive the 2008 Sarah Patterson Distinguished Alumni Award, given annually by the Bama booster group, the Medalist Club.

The award named for Alabama's gymnastics coach goes to "a member of the Alabama gymnastics family who has gone on to lead a life of distinction after graduation.

Duckworth was a two-time NCAA Champion on the balance beam, eight-time All-American, three-year Scholastics All-American and an SEC and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship winner during her 1990-93 Crimson Tide career.

She has seen both sides of a national team championship, having been a part of the Tide's 1991 NCAA title as a sophomore and the 2002 NCAA Championship as the Tide's volunteer coach. As a choreographer, she has created four floor exercise routines that won NCAA Championships including Ashley Miles in 2004 and Morgan Dennis last season.

She is a pharmaceuticals representative who has also won numerous professional awards.

Past winners of the Sarah Patterson Award are Barbara Mack Harding (2005), Patti Rice Eggers (2006) and Marie Robbins (2007).

TENNIS, ANYONE?

Much has been made of Alabama's great football recruiting class, and rightfully so. Crimson Tide football has the tradition to attract a number one in the nation class.

Alabama men's tennis doesn't have Bama football tradition, but with facilities second to none and a program that has been on the rise under Coach Billy Pate, the Crimson Tide recruiting program earned high marks this year.

The Alabama men's tennis program has grown to national prominence in the six years head coach Billy Pate has been at the helm. During his tenure, Pate has led the Crimson Tide to four NCAA tournament appearances, including two NCAA Sweet 16 appearances in 2003 and again in 2007.

This year's recruiting effort was judged as 13th best in the nation by Tennis Recruiting Network. Incoming freshmen Richard Doverspike, John Lewis and Creighton Blanchard will join the team in the fall of 2008. Alabama is one of only two SEC schools in the top 15, with Kentucky leading at number four. Florida and Vanderbilt trail the Tide in the top 25 at 17 and 20, respectively.

ADDITIONALLY

Alabama volleyball has added Josh Lauer as a new assistant coach and recruiting coordinator. Lauer came to Coach Judy Green's staff after four years as head coach at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

He joins the staff that includes Green and Assistant Coach Ben Boldt.

Missouri-St. Louis earned its second consecutive trip to the Great Lakes Valley Conference Tournament in 2007. Lauer got his start in coaching at the club level with St. Louis CYC Volleyball Club. Since 2000, Lauer has been developing athletes at the junior Olympic level and led three teams to top-five national finishes in the Open Division at the USJOV National Tournament.

He is a graduate of Washington University-St. Louis where he earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and a minor in religious studies. Lauer is a certified volleyball official at the high school, collegiate and junior national level.

COACH INJURED

Alabama's men's basketball team has had a lot of problems this season, but those paled in comparison to what could have been a tragedy for the program. Alabama Assistant Coach Kobie Baker escaped critical injury in a devastating automobile accident in mid-February.

Baker was released after spending a little over a day at DCH Medical Center. His car was involved in a collision with a log truck. He suffered a concussion and bruises, but no broken bones, and was expected to make a full recovery. ■

2008 ALABAMA SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

Date	Opponent	CT
Feb. 22	Cal-Poly	6:30
Feb. 23	Cal-Poly	4:00
Feb. 24	Cal-Poly	11:00
Feb. 28-March 1	FRISCO TOURNAMENT @ FRISCO, TEXAS (Teams TBA)	
March 2	@ UT-Arlington	1:00
March 4	Troy @ Montgomery	6:30
March 5	Troy	6:30
March 7	Youngstown State	6:30
March 8	Youngstown State	4:00
March 9	Youngstown State	2:00
March 11	@ North Alabama	6:00
March 12	Samford	6:30
March 14	@ Kentucky	3:00
March 15	@ Kentucky	1:00
March 16	@ Kentucky	Noon
March 18	New Orleans	6:30
March 19	New Orleans	6:30
March 21	Vanderbilt	6:30
March 22	Vanderbilt	4:00
March 23	Vanderbilt	2:00
March 25	Jacksonville State	6:30
March 26	@ Jacksonville State	6:30
March 28	Ole Miss	6:30
March 29	Ole Miss	4:00
March 30	Ole Miss	2:00
April 1	UAB	6:30
April 2	UAB @ Hoover	TBA
April 4	@ LSU	7:00
April 5	@ LSU	3:00
April 6	@ LSU	1:00
April 8	Mississippi Valley State	6:30
April 9	SE Louisiana	6:30
April 11	@ Tennessee	6:00
April 12	@ Tennessee	3:00
April 13	@ Tennessee	1:00
April 16	Southern Miss @ Pearl	7:00
April 18	Mississippi State	6:30
April 19	Mississippi State	4:00
April 20	Mississippi State	2:00
April 22	Lipscomb	6:30
April 23	@ South Alabama	TBA
April 25	Auburn	6:30
April 26	Auburn (FSN TV)	3:00
April 27	Auburn	2:00
April 29	@ Samford	6:00
May 2	@ Arkansas	6:35
May 3	@ Arkansas	2:05
May 4	@ Arkansas	1:05
May 9	Florida	6:30
May 10	Florida	4:00
May 11	Florida	2:00
May 15	@ Georgia	5:30
May 16	@ Georgia	5:30
May 17	@ Georgia	2:00
May 21-May 25	SEC Tournament @ Hoover	

MEN'S TENNIS

Date	Opponent	CT
Jan. 10	@ Hawaii	1:00
Jan. 17-21	SEC Indoors @ New Orleans	
Jan. 26	Troy	10:00
Jan. 26	Southern Miss	3:00
Feb. 3	Furman	10:00
Feb. 3	Georgia State	3:00
Feb. 8	@ Cal-Irvine	1:00
Feb. 9	@ Pepperdine	1:30
Feb. 15-18	ITA National Indoors @ Seattle	
Feb. 24	Indiana	1:00
Feb. 29	LSU	1:00
March 2	Arkansas	1:00
March 7	@ Mississippi State	2:00
March 9	@ Ole Miss	1:00
March 13-16	Blue-Gray @ Montgomery	
March 21	Kentucky	2:00
March 23	@ Vanderbilt	1:00
March 28	Georgia	3:00
March 30	Tennessee	1:00
April 4	@ South Carolina	2:00
April 6	@ Florida	1:00
April 9	UAB @ Samford	Noon
April 9	@ Samford	5:30
April 12	Auburn	5:00
April 18-20	SEC Championships @ Sea Island, Ga.	
May 15-26	NCAA Championships @ Tulsa, Okla.	

MEN'S GOLF

Date	Event
Feb. 17-19	John Hayt Intercollegiate @ Jacksonville, Fla.
Feb. 29-March 2	Puerto Rico Classic @ Rio Mar Beach
March 14-16	EZ-Go-Schenkel @ Statesboro, Ga.
March 24-26	US Collegiate @ Atlanta
April 7-8	Morris Williams @ Austin, Texas
April 18-20	SEC Championships @ Sea Island, Ga.
May 17-19	NCAA East @ Chattanooga
May 30-June 2	NCAA Championships @ West Lafayette, Ind.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Date	Event
Feb. 24-26	Lady Puerto Rico Classic @ Rio Grande
March 9-11	Central Florida Invitational @ Orlando
March 14-16	LSU/Cleveland Classic @ Baton Rouge
March 21-23	Liz Murphey @ Athens, Ga.
April 4-6	Crimson Tide Classic @ Ol' Colony
April 18-20	SEC Championships at Loudon, Tenn.
May 20-23	NCAA Championships @ Albuquerque, N.M.

MEN'S TRACK

(Indoor)	
Date	Event
Jan. 18	@ Notre Dame Invitational
Jan. 26	@ Boise State
Feb. 1-2	@ Kentucky
Feb. 8-9	@ Notre Dame
Feb. 16	@ Washington
Feb. 29-March 2	SEC @ Fayetteville, Ark.
March 7-8	Last Chance @ Notre Dame
March 14-15	NCAA @ Fayetteville, Ark.

(Outdoor)

March 27-30	Alabama Relays
April 4-5	@ Stanford
April 5	@ Auburn
April 12	@ Arizona State
April 24-26	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 2-3	@ Ole Miss
May 15-18	SEC @ Auburn
June 11-14	NCAA @ Des Moines, Iowa

WOMEN'S TRACK

(Indoor)	
Date	Event
Jan. 11-12	@ Kentucky
Jan. 18-19	@ Clemson
Feb. 8-9	Adidas @ Nebraska
Feb. 15-16	Iowa State Invitational
Feb. 29-March 2	SEC @ Fayetteville
March 7-8	Last Chance @ Notre Dame
March 14-15	NCAA @ Fayetteville

(Outdoor)

March 27-30	Alabama Relays
April 4-5	@ Stanford
April 9-12	Sea-Ray Relays @ Knoxville
April 18-19	Vanderbilt Invitational
April 24-26	Drake Relays @ Des Moines, Iowa
May 3	@ Ole Miss
May 15-18	SEC @ Auburn
June 11-14	NCAA @ Des Moines, Iowa

(All times tentative)



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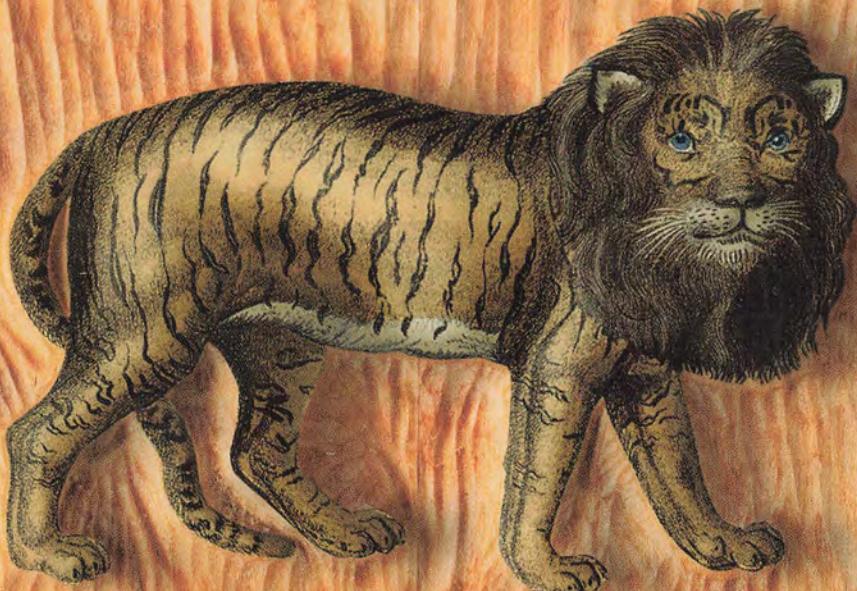


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